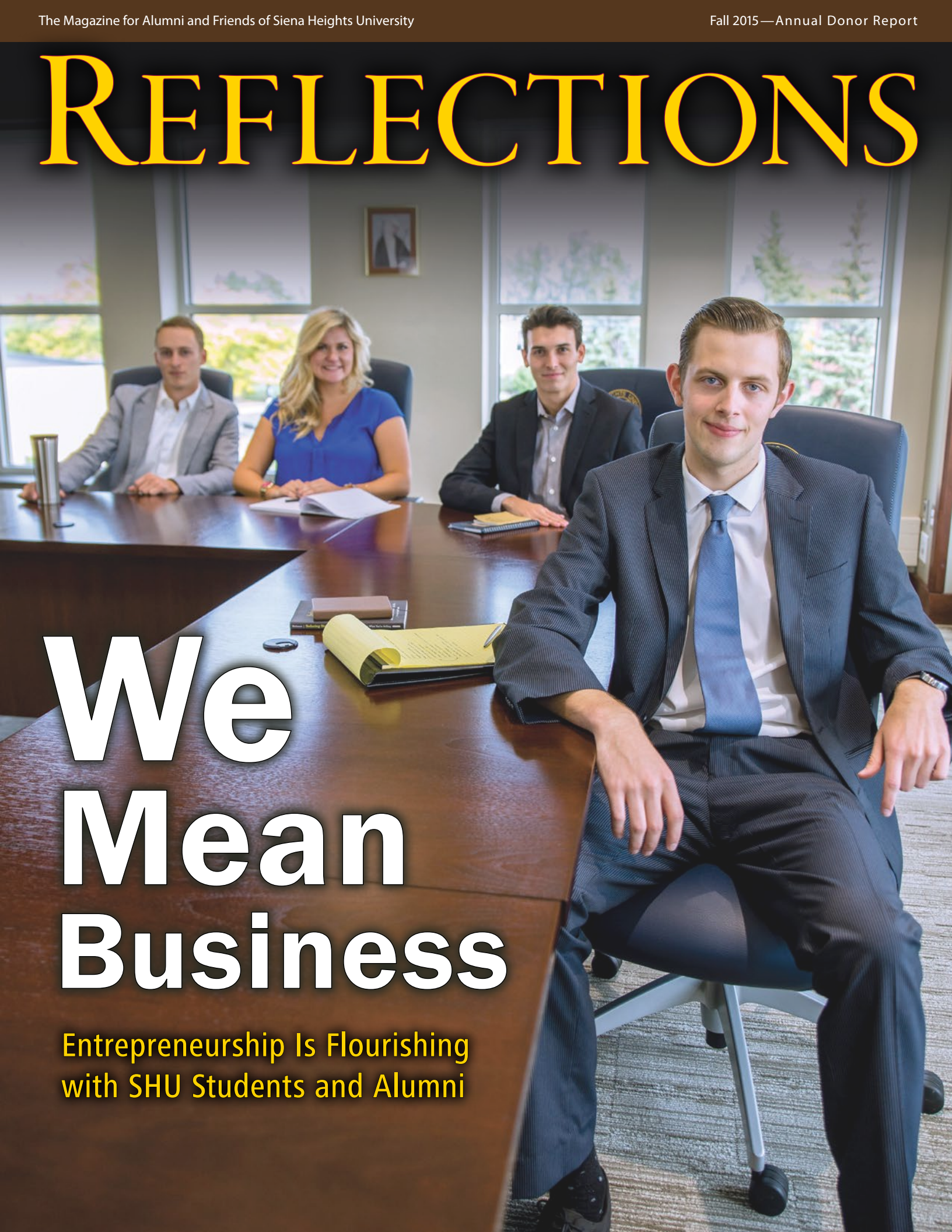


REFLECTIONS



We Mean Business

Entrepreneurship Is Flourishing
with SHU Students and Alumni



from the president



Sister Peg Albert, OP, PhD
President

What Is God Calling You To Do?

Warm greetings to all of you! The beginning of this traditional academic year held many blessings for us as a Catholic, Dominican University.

First of all, our chosen theme for this year is "Justice," which comes forth from our Catholic, Dominican traditions. And how timely this theme is in relation to the visit of Pope Francis! Surrounded by all the excitement of his visit, he remains a simple, holy man. I was touched by his kindness, warm human gestures, his prayerfulness and his call for all of us to live our lives in a just way.

Justice calls us to take a look at our own lives and to see how we are positively or negatively affecting the common good of all God's people. How does what I do affect how other people live? Am I concerned about the poor and the marginalized and the systems that keep people in those boxes, or do I move out of my own comfort zone to make a difference? This is a question all of us have to answer individually.

As president of this fine University, we also have a responsibility to educate and instill in our students a sense of social justice. We can do that through Catholic Social Teaching and our Dominican values.

We also need to provide opportunities for students to engage with the poor and marginalized. We do this through our Siena Serves program, which is based on service to those in need.

We also have an obligation to point out to students the connections among personal prayer, communal and liturgical prayer and service, which flows from those experiences. It is not enough to just pray, although extremely important. We must also act. In our Dominican language, we give to others the fruit of our contemplation.

Each year before our freshmen begin their experience at Siena, they must read a book chosen by a committee of faculty and staff – and come prepared to discuss it. This year's read was "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson. It speaks to the lack of justice in the South in our criminal justice system.

We were most fortunate to have the author on our campus to speak to all of us on Common Dialogue Day, an annual tradition where we cancel classes and have presentations around a theme, this year being justice.

What a remarkable man! One of the points Stevenson strongly emphasized was that we had to be in "proximity" to the poor and the marginalized to understand their situation and be moved to do something. In addition, we have to change the "narrative" that we have been using in order to effect change.

It has given me great cause to reflect upon all of these elements in order to make a difference in our world. As Dominicans, we must constantly reflect, pray and be transformed ourselves in order to be transformative in our world.

So, I challenge all of us, alumni, students, faculty, staff—all of us—to take a look at ourselves as individuals and as a university community, and ponder what it is that God is calling us to do. Only then, can we deepen our sense of mission and identity.

May we all have the commitment and courage to do so.

Sister Peg Albert, OP

REFLECTIONS

FALL 2015

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The mission of Siena Heights, a Catholic university founded and sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, is to assist people to become more competent, purposeful and ethical through a teaching and learning environment which respects the dignity of all.

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ON THE COVER

SHU student Gilius Blinstrubas (front) is a budding entrepreneur who started his own business and then helped form the new student Entrepreneur Club on the Adrian campus this fall. Cover photo by Laura Marsh '10.

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from the editor



Doug Goodnough
Editor

Who Made a Difference in Your Life at SHU? Let Them Know!

Even with social media and its sometimes-exasperating ability to instantaneously connect with people anytime, anywhere, at times it's still difficult keeping in touch with friends and others who have impacted your life.

Today's college students have the tremendous advantage of using social media to keep in touch with classmates regardless of geographical distance, especially after they graduate. That certainly wasn't the case for us "old-timers" of the pre-Internet era.

Most of the time, unless it was something like a Homecoming or a random phone call, it was extremely challenging to keep tabs on the people you once saw on a daily basis and who were a huge part of your life during the college years.

Then Facebook hit, and it all changed. Suddenly, high school and college classmates roared back into the picture in excruciating detail, giving me more than I ever wanted to know about their lives, families, careers and sports fan tendencies. I felt like more like a bystander actually, watching lives passing by, occasionally virtually "waving" to them.

Ironically, despite being just an instant message or email away, it's still sometimes a tough task finding the time to stay connected with those people who affected my life—and more importantly—letting them know how much they did.

That was certainly the case for my former college coach and mentor. Pat Riepma recruited me to play baseball at Hillsdale College. A former star quarterback at HC who not only was the baseball coach but also the sports information director and assistant football coach. He was someone who impacted my life in so many ways during my college days, most of which had nothing to do with baseball.

He helped me get my first newspaper internship at the local newspaper that launched my journalism career. He also hired me as a student assistant sports information director and taught me things like leadership, responsibility and time management. And as fellow Christians, our involvement in the college's Fellowship of Christian Athletes organization provided an example of what a man of faith should look like.

After I graduated, he went on to become an incredibly successful and impactful football coach and athletic director at Northwood University. I only had a few communications with him over the years, most being very brief.

Several years back, he developed cancer. He won that initial battle, but last fall, cancer returned, and this past summer eventually claimed his life. My last brief message to him was, "Coach, you are in my prayers always." His response, "Goody, every day is a gift."

That was it.

I wish I would have said more, but hopefully he knew the influence he made on my life.

Do you have someone like that who impacted your life while Siena Heights? A coach, faculty or staff member? I know you probably do. There are some incredible people here like Coach Riepma. Don't wait to reach out to them. Take the time to let them know.

You won't regret it.

from the heights

SHU Named Gold Level Veteran-Friendly School

Siena Heights University was one of 28 Michigan colleges and universities that earned Gold Level status in Veteran-Friendly School



program created by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. The program recognizes institutions of higher

learning for their dedication to student veterans and dependents utilizing their G.I. Bill and other educational benefits.

SHU Again Recognized for Online Veterans Program

Siena Heights University was again recognized as 2015 Best Online Programs for Veterans by U.S. News and World Report. SHU is ranked the following in this year's listing:

- 21st overall (tied),
- Second in Michigan,
- First among Michigan private institutions.

Last year, Siena Heights was ranked 47th in the same category. To qualify for the Best Online Programs for Veterans rankings, the 737 online degree programs featured first had to be among the top 75 percent of schools ranked in the 2015 Best Online Programs rankings.

Ripper Presents at Center for Scholastic Inquiry Conference

SHU Assistant Professor of Business Matthew Ripper had two papers accepted by and presented at the October 2015 international conference in Charleston, S.C., on behalf of the Center for Scholastic Inquiry. His two papers are entitled "Building an Authentic Workplace Community Through Social Media" and "Community Benefits Districts: Nonprofit Governance Using Social Capital and Cross-organizational Collaboration."



Weinstein Earns Fiction Writing Award

SHU Assistant Professor of English Alexander Weinstein (above) was recently awarded a Sustainable Arts Foundation Award for his fiction writing. His work was chosen out of more than 1,000 applicants. His short story, "The Cartographers," was also accepted for publication in the 2015 Lascaux Fiction Prize Anthology. Another of Weinstein's short stories, "The Museum of False Doors," was chosen as a finalist for the River Styx Microfiction Prize and will appear in the upcoming issue. He also presented "Locating Digital Storytelling in the Undergraduate Creative Writing Curriculum" at the National 2015 Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference in Minneapolis, Minn. His short story "The Museum of False Doors" received an honorable mention in the River Styx Microfiction Contest and appeared in the summer 2015 issue. Two of his translations of Danish poet Josefine Klougart appear in the spring issue of The Massachusetts Review. Finally, his non-fiction essay, "Toward a Fiction of Compassion," appeared in the winter 2015 issue of Pleiades.

Frost Has Article Published in Lutheran Journal

The Journal of the Lutheran Historical Conference recently published a scholarly article, "Domke's Garden: A Forgotten Lutheran Artist," by SHU Associate Professor of History Dr. Julieanna Frost.

Carter Receives Adult Learner Champion Award from CAHEN



Recently retired Dean of the College for Professional Studies Deb Carter received Adult Learner Champion award and plaque at the annual Outstanding Adult

Learner event for the Capital Area Higher Education Network (CAHEN) at Cooley Law School in Lansing on April 15. Also, Lacie Hill, a December community services/family systems graduate of SHU's Lansing location, was named the Outstanding Adult Learner for 2015.

Moody Presents at Association of American Geographers Conference



Associate Professor of Environmental Science Heather Moody presented two sessions at the Association of American Geographers Conference in Chicago last summer. Her topics were "The Racial Gap in Childhood Blood Lead Levels Related to Socioeconomic Position of Residence in Metropolitan Detroit" and "Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Honors Professor Joe Darden." ALSO: Moody had her dissertation entitled "The Racial Gap in Childhood Blood Lead Levels Related to Socioeconomic Position of Residence in Metropolitan Detroit" accepted for publication by the Sociology of Race and Ethnicity journal.

Student Leadership Awards Announced

The following are the winners of SHU Student Leadership Awards, which were conducted April 15 in Benincasa Hall:

- Sister Carmelia O'Connor Outstanding Community Service Award: Dominican Young Adults,

- Saints Pride Award (student-athlete leadership): Sydney Gossett, Reggie Blackmon,
- Outstanding Educational Program: Beta Beta Beta (Animal Magic),
- Most Valuable Officer Award (student leadership): Meg Dubois,
- Organization of the Year: Students Advocating For Everyone (SAFE),
- Student Organization Advisor of the Year: Jun Tsuji,
- Halo Award (school spirit): Jarrod Stober, Emily Peters,
- Emerging Leader Award: Sissy Phillips, Gabby Beveridge
- Trudy McSorley Servant Leader Award: Josh Dowell, Erin Russell,
- Legacy Award (senior leadership): Zak Krug, Katrina Majeske.

Engle Named New Director of Alumni Relations



Jenny Engle '12, '15/MA was named the new director of Alumni Relations, replacing the retiring Jennifer Hamlin Church. She will begin her new post in mid-November. She has been part of the Advancement Office since 2011. She has coordinated the Siena Heights Summer Spectacular, dedications and donor recognition events. Most recently, she worked on the dedication ceremony of Chaos Getaria.

Garrow Selected as New Siena Heights Registrar



This spring SHU named Joy Garrow its new registrar. She had been serving as the interim registrar since October 2014. Garrow has been with SHU since 2002, and has a master's degree in Organizational Leadership and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from SHU.

O'Connell has Article Published in Christianity and Literature

SHU Assistant Professor of Humanities Michael O'Connell had an article published in the June 2015 issue of "Christianity and Literature." The name of the essay is " 'Your Temple is Self and Sentiment': David Foster Wallace's Diagnostic Novels."

SHU Nursing Receives 10-Year Accreditation

The SHU Nursing program recently received a 10-year reaccreditation—the best a program in baccalaureate or graduate nursing education can receive—from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Siena Heights Nursing met all four CCNE standards with no compliance issues. Siena Heights was initially granted a five-year accreditation in 2010 by the CCNE, and recently underwent an extensive self-study process that lasted more than a year. Faculty examined all aspects of the program and interviewed its stakeholders, including students, faculty and staff, alumni and clinical site partners.

SHU Receives Grant to Develop Reading Program

Siena Heights University is only one of four Michigan universities working with the University of Florida's Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform (CEEDAR) Center and the Michigan Department of Education to better prepare general and special education teachers to help students improve reading skills. SHU, as well as Northern Michigan University, Grand Valley State University and Northern Michigan University will use a \$200,000 CEEDAR grant to develop a training program aimed at improving reading for students from kindergarten through high school. According to SHU Director of Education and Special Education Program Coordinator Dr. Carrie Mitchell, there will be several leadership teams in which Siena will participate. After a two-year commitment, the participating institutions will help train other universities. The ultimate goal, according to CEEDAR, is to help students achieve better college- and career-ready standards. Mitchell said this is the first time SHU has received such a grant.

Betz Named New Dean of the College for Professional Studies



After conducting a national search, Cheri Betz was named the new dean of the College for Professional Studies. She began her new position Sept. 15, replacing retiring Dean Deb Carter. Betz has been employed at Siena Heights since 2002, previously serving as SHU's Southeast Michigan regional director, which includes the centers at Southfield, Dearborn and Monroe. She earned her bachelor's degree from Olivet Nazarene (Ill.) University, her master's degree in organizational leadership from SHU in 2007, and is completing her PhD from Olivet Nazarene.

Mathis Selected as New Diversity and Inclusion Director



Sharese Shannon Mathis was named the new director of Diversity & Inclusion. She began her new position July 6. A Lansing native, she received her master's degree in college student development from Eastern Illinois University and has worked at Northern Arizona and Vanderbilt universities.

SHU SSS Grant Renewed

Siena Heights University recently learned that its U.S. Department of Education grant to fund the Student Support Services (SSS) program was renewed. SHU will receive more than \$1.4 million over the next five years to operate the SSS program, which helps increase the number of low-income, first-generation college students and those with disabilities to successfully complete a program of study at the postsecondary level. Siena Heights has had the program on campus since 1979, and it serves approximately 160 students each year. The SSS program provides students with academic tutoring, assistance in course selection, information about financial aid and economic literacy, and support and resources to help students transfer from two-year to four-year colleges or from undergraduate to graduate or professional studies.

SHU and Barry University Sign Agreement for Social Work Students

Adrian Dominican sponsored institutions SHU and Barry University in Miami Shores, Fla., recently signed a five-year articulation agreement that will offer Siena Heights social work graduates preference in acceptance and a reduced tuition rate to pursue a master's degree at Barry's School of Social Work Advanced Standing MSW Program. The cost per credit hour for SHU students attending the Miami campus \$565, discounted from the regular \$960 per credit hour rate. Siena Heights social work graduates will be given every consideration for financial assistance—including graduate assistantships—and will be eligible to compete for non-need-based academic scholarships at Barry. The agreement will run until Feb. 1, 2020.

Recent Retirements from Siena Heights University

SHU Professor of Theater Doug Miller announced his retirement effective summer 2015 after completing 36 years of service at Siena Heights University. The University cited his many contributions to the theatre program, SHU and the local Adrian community. Both his technical skills and ability as a director have enhanced Theatre Siena throughout his years on the faculty.

Other recent retirements include:

- Director of Student Support Services Michele Buku retired in July after more than 30 years with the University. She served in various roles, including Dean of Students and in the General Studies program.
- After 23 years, Administrative Assistant Pat Lemanowicz retired from SHU on Sept. 4. She has been the "face" of SHU's program at Monroe County Community College during her tenure.
- After 20 years at Siena Heights University, Sally Snyder retired effective Sept. 3. For the last five years Sally has served as Student Support Services office manager.
- Information Technology staff member Alan Ballenberger announced his retirement effective Aug. 14 after 33 years of service at Siena Heights University.

SHU Staff Members Receive Service Awards

The following employees were honored for their years of service at the All-University Workshop in August:

10 Years

- Nicole Barkway (assistant director, online learning programs),
- Tad Dunne (professor of philosophy),
- Carol Himelhoch (professor of management),
- Lee Johnson (senior vice president for business and finance),
- Mike Karabetsos (associate vice president of human resources),
- Laura Klutsarits (softball coach, assistant sports information director),
- Joni LeMay (athletics operations manager),
- Linda Pancone (student accounts advisor),
- Martha Ruesink (CMS Division administrative assistant),
- Elly Teunion-Smith (associate professor of criminal justice),
- Linda Tafolla (Kellogg Community College @ SHU assistant director),
- Samantha Thacker (assistant director of residence life)
- Lesley Weidner (Central Michigan regional director).

20 Years

- Merrie Ann Baggett (custodian),
- Jennifer Hamlin Church (associate vice president of advancement; director of alumni relations),
- Sister Pat McDonald (professor of counselor education; director of graduate studies),
- Sally Snyder (Student Support Services office manager),
- Marie Suzor (SHU Lake Michigan College administrative assistant),
- Aldo Zid (men's soccer coach).

30 Years

- Tim Bauer (director of track operations; men's cross country and track and field coach),
- Fred Shepherd (maintenance),
- Michele Buku (director of Student Support Services).

SHU Welcomes New Faculty Members

Siena Heights University welcomed several new full-time faculty members this fall. They are:

- Callie Clare (assistant professor of communications),
- Elizabeth Davis (assistant professor of social work),
- Kelly Ford (assistant professor of music),
- Ryan Hamilton (assistant professor/director of engineering),
- Jennifer Kling (assistant professor of philosophy),
- John Labriola (assistant professor of healthcare management),
- Melissa Lanza (assistant professor of counseling),
- Dan Oullette (assistant professor of computer and information systems),
- Dan Walker (assistant professor of theater).

Dunne Has Article Published in Dominican Journal

SHU Professor of Philosophy Tad Dunne recently published "Dominicans, Contemplation & Veritas" in *New Blackfriars*, the Dominican-sponsored journal of philosophy and theology (July 2015). He presents recent developments among scholars of spirituality regarding both contemplation and veritas and suggests how these have a significant impact on the Dominican heritage.

Barbee Has Two Poems Published

Director of the Writing Center and Associate Professor of English Karin Barbee had two poems, "The First Woman" and "To Get Out," in the most recent issue of *Whiskey Island*. *Whiskey Island* is published by Cleveland State University.

Tsuji, Former Student Team Up for Research Article

SHU Professor of Biology Dr. Jun Tsuji and alum Lindsay Rupp '14 recently published a research article entitled, "Does stem color affect the selection of host plants by the small cabbage white butterfly *Pieris rapae*?" in the journal *BIOS*. Rupp is presently employed at Michigan Blood, a nonprofit blood bank serving hospitals.

Schnapp Publishes Poem in Anthology

SHU English faculty member Sister Pat Schnapp had her poem "Mississippi" published in *Down to the Dark River*, an anthology from Louisiana Literature Press.

New Staff Mentorship Program Unveiled

To help new staff members gain understanding about the Siena community, the Staff Advisory Council and Human Resources Office introduced a new Staff Mentor Program this fall. The program helps our newest staff members to understand our mission of becoming more competent, purposeful and ethical. Mentees (new staff) will be paired with a mentor (a current SHU staff member who has completed an HR-sponsored mentor training). The mentors will work with their mentees throughout the mentee's first year at SHU to better live the mission, develop relationships and expand internal networks.

Admissions Viewbook Earns Gold Award

Siena Heights University's College of Arts and Sciences recruitment viewbook developed by TWG Plus received a Gold Award at the 30th annual Educational Advertising Awards, sponsored by Higher Education Marketing Report. The Educational Advertising Awards is the largest educational advertising awards competition in the country. More than 2,000 entries were received from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools from all 50 states and several foreign countries. Gold awards were granted to 290 institutions. The "Siena Effect" viewbook is the centerpiece of a family of new marketing publications for CAS.

SHU Lacrosse Goes to National Tournament

Led by senior goaltender Ryan Mailloux and junior defenseman Joshua Abruzzo, the Saints made their first trip to the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association Division II national tournament. SHU defeated Missouri Valley 8-7 in the opening round, then fell to eventual national champion the University of Dayton 7-6 in overtime to finish the season 13-3 and ranked sixth in the final MCLA poll.

Mailloux and Abruzzo were each named first team MCLA Division II All-Americans, while Ed Maloney was named MCLA D-II Coach of the Year. Mailloux finished with a 13-3 record, 6.23 goals-against average and 187 saves in roughly 895 minutes of action. Abruzzo was a key cog within SHU's defense, finishing with a team-leading 54 groundballs. Junior midfielder Tom Kreitzer was recognized as a All-MCLA third team selection and was the Saints' leading goal-scorer with 34 tallies.

Maloney (left) was also recognized as CCLA and Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Coach of the Year while guiding Siena Heights its highest win total and best finish in program history. The Saints were also 4-0 in CCLA Central Division play—good enough for SHU's first division championship.



Ryan Mailloux



Joshua Abruzzo



saints highlights

Eight SHU Teams Honored for Academic Achievements

A total of eight Siena Heights athletic teams were honored as NAIA Scholar Teams. The women's golf team was rated second among all NAIA athletic programs — and first among all women's golf programs — with a team grade-point average of 3.93. With a 3.56 team GPA, the softball team was rated fifth among NAIA softball teams. The baseball team was seventh with a 3.33 in its sport. The other five SHU teams which received NAIA Scholar Team recognition included women's soccer (3.50), men's golf (3.38), women's volleyball (3.24), men's soccer (3.21) and women's basketball (3.06). For a team to be considered for the NAIA Scholar-Team award, it must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) as defined by the institution.

Golf

Women: The Saints placed fourth at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships at Coyote Creek Golf Club. Sydney Gossett was the Saints' leading scorer with a three-round total of 259. She tied for 13th individually. Andrea Rumler carded a 263 to tie for 17th while Alyssa Fausneucht and Andrea Richards each compiled a 265 and tied for 20th. Rumler was also named to the Capital One Academic All-District At-Large Team, which is chosen by CoSIDA (Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America), as well as a NAIA Scholar-Athlete.

Men: The Saints finished tied for fourth place at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships at Coyote Creek Golf Club. Nicklaus Zanotti ended with a three-round score of 229 and placed 10th. Joe Forest had a 233 to tie for 13th, while Tim Combs tied for 16th with a 234. Five were named NAIA Scholar-Athletes, including juniors Combs, Michael MacLean, Parker Ross and Collin Smith and sophomore Gage Snyder.

Women's Lacrosse

Junior Erin Kehn and sophomore Tabitha Ferguson were each named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first team. Ferguson was also named WHAC Defensive Player of the Year for the second straight year, while SHU head coach Cindy Hill claimed her third consecutive Coach of the Year honor. Ferguson had an 8-6 record and broke her own single-season school record for goals-against average, finishing at 13.03. She was also chosen as honorable mention All-National Women's Lacrosse League. Kehn led the team in goals (52) and points (57). Sophomore Aliisa Mason was honored as an All-WHAC Honorable Mention and was also recognized on the WHAC Champions of Character Team. Cindy Bradford, Margaret Hern, Sabrina Snow and Sydney VanHoose were named to the WHAC All-Academic Team, with VanHoose also earning Academic All-NWLL honors and CoSIDA Academic All-America second team status. The Saints had their first winning season with an 8-6 record and reached their highest-ever NWLL ranking at No. 5.

Softball

Sophomore Megan Jones was named to the Capital One Academic All-America Second Team, which is chosen by CoSIDA (Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America). Nominees for the CoSIDA award must have a GPA of 3.30 or higher. Jones is the second SHU softball player to be honored on the CoSIDA team. Jones, senior Taylor Hayes and freshman Kelsie Abbott were each named to the All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honorable mention team. Seven Saints were named to the Academic All-WHAC Team. That group included seniors Hayes, Jessie Arnold, Mariah Boss, Morgan Huttenlocker, Bitty Treece and Morgan Warfield and junior Tiffany Jones. NAIA Scholar-Athletes were Arnold, Boss, Huttenlocker, Treece and Warfield. Senior Megan Higdon was selected to the WHAC Champions of Character Team. The Saints finished 23-21 overall, 7-11 in the conference.

Baseball

Junior catcher Zack Dunlop and junior pitcher Brent Vaccaro were selected as All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honorable mentions, while senior Drew Milligan was named to the WHAC Gold Glove Team. Junior Ryne Sanders was selected to the WHAC Champions of Character Team. He was also named Academic All-WHAC along with nine teammates: seniors Milligan, Lucas Bartz and Daniel Nye; and juniors Dunlop, Austin Hauck, Thomas McCarter, Alex Robbins, Tayler Thelen and Joe Williams. The Saints tied for the second-most Scholar Athlete honorees in the NAIA. Seniors Bartz and Milligan and juniors Dunlop, Hauck, McCarter, Sanders, Thelen and Williams each received the honor. The Saints finished 19-30 overall, 13-22 in the WHAC.

Outdoor Track & Field

Women: Marissa Johnson won the national championship in the high jump as the 18th-ranked SHU women's track and field team finished 27th at the NAIA Outdoor Championships. Johnson cleared 5 feet, 8 1/2 inches to bring home the title. Sheila McKinley claimed All-America accolades by clearing 11 feet, 9 3/4 inches in the pole vault, good for eighth place. The Saints won three events in placing fourth at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships. Rebecca Cousineau (hammer throw), Haley Hudson (shot put) and Marissa Johnson (high jump) were individual winners for the Saints. Cousineau also claimed the school record in the discus with a 145-2 effort.



Marissa Johnson



Gauge Aebersold



Logan Moore

Men: Gauge Aebersold and Logan Moore claimed national championships in the shot put and 110-meter hurdles, respectively, as the Saints finished fifth at the NAIA Outdoor Championships. Aebersold had a school-record distance of 59 feet, 7 1/2 inches in the shot. Moore clocked in at 14.304 seconds in the 110 hurdles, winning the event by .006 seconds. Fellow SHU hurdler Frederick Boyd also claimed All-America honors, taking seventh in 14.62 seconds. Richard DePalma placed runner-up in the pole vault, clearing 16-6 3/4. Gerald Richardson earned All-America honors in the high jump, clearing 6 feet, 10 1/4 inches, and placed fourth. Siena Heights accumulated 35 points, finishing one spot shy of a trophy spot. Concordia (Neb.) won the national title with 59 points. The Saints also won five events in finishing second at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships. Aebersold (discus), DePalma (pole vault), Jonathan Dozier (shot put), Moore (110 hurdles) and Adam Stuckert (hammer throw) were the individual winners for the Saints. DePalma, Paul Jacobs, Matthew Leaders, Matthew Robinet, Chris Whiting and Lyle Van Fleteren were each named NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

Collaborative Creativity

SHU Nursing Program Teams Up with Social Work, Theater to Earn National Innovation Award

Siena Heights University's nursing program was the recipient of the Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Award from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

SHU earned the honor in the Small Schools category. The awards program recognizes the outstanding work of AACN member schools to re-envision traditional models for nursing education and lead programmatic change. Innovation awards, including monetary prize of \$1,000, are given annually in four institutional categories: Small Schools; Academic Health Center (AHC); Private Schools without an AHC; and Public Schools without an AHC.

According to Dr. Sue Idczak, SHU's director of nursing, the program was honored for a unique series of live training simulations conducted in 2013-14 that involved students from nursing, theater and social work programs. Under the faculty's guidance and supervision, specific scenarios involving the care of older adults were recreated.

"Inter-professional education is becoming such a big thing," said Idczak, who credited SHU Assistant Professor of Nursing Kelli Kusisto for the creation and development of the simulations. "It really brought liberal arts into the nursing field."

Kusisto, whose specialty is teaching gerontology courses, got the idea after attending a nursing conference that addressed improving the care of older adults.

"I had to come up with a project that would advance the whole concept," she said. "I've always wanted to work with other disciplines around campus. I thought, 'What if we used theater students to be our patients, and social work student could collaborate with our nursing students?'"

Using a National League of Nurses simulation, Kusisto worked with SHU nursing, theater and social work faculty for more than a year before the simulations were implemented. After researching and studying their patient's condition, groups of approximately 8-10 students went through an "authentic experience," Kusisto said. Nursing students were charged with transitioning patients from an acute care facility to a rehabilitation center, working with social work students.

"We didn't make the patients look old, but it came off as if they were really old," she said of the roles theater students played as patients and family members. "They had a specific role to play out."



SHU Director of Nursing Dr. Sue Idczak (second from left) as well as SHU nursing faculty member Kelli Kusisto (second from right) and SHU theater faculty member Mark DiPietro (far right) accept the Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Award Oct. 26 from American Association of Colleges of Nursing representatives during AACN's fall meeting in Washington, D.C.

"Theater students were responsible for the full research of each illness," said SHU Professor of Theater Mark DiPietro on the role his students played. "Coming together and integrating disciplines gave each student a unique perspective on students outside his or her discipline. An hour of watching the film and debriefing gave students the opportunity to integrate ideas and deconstruct actor, nurse and social work performers. Students mentioned over and over again how beneficial and rewarding the collaboration was.

"And they had to memorize a great deal, including lists of medicines and what each one did," he added.

The simulations were so successful Idczak said SHU's nursing program is developing a "Simulation and Clinical Reasoning" course that will be available in the fall 2016 semester.

"Kelli's creativity in nursing has stimulated other faculty," Idczak said. "This is part of what liberal arts and critical thinking is all about."

SHU received the award during the AACN's fall meeting Oct. 26 in Washington, D.C. ♦

By Jeff Meade—Monroe News



On the Right Path

Proving Her High School Coach Wrong Motivates Lucia Alfaro

All the Way to SHU

Editor's Note: The following story appeared in the Sept. 1, 2015, edition of the Monroe News. This edited version was used with permission.

Lucia Alfaro '17 (above middle) wasn't exactly encouraged on her first day of cross country practice as a Milan freshman.

"She couldn't even run a half mile," recalls Big Reds coach Steve Porter. "I told her this is a running sport and she might want to go out for volleyball."

Alfaro got mad and was determined to prove her coach wrong. Back then she ran the 3.1-mile cross country distance in 28 or 29 minutes and was Milan's slowest runner as a freshman. Three years later,

she was the Big Reds fastest runner and a state qualifier.

Today she captains the Siena Heights University cross country team and also captains the Saints' indoor and outdoor track and field squads. She qualified for NAIA nationals last year and ran a marathon—26.2 miles—in Alabama.



Siena Heights team from left to right: Ruth Ann Letherer, Elaine Johnson, Maria Fisher, Kristin Stobinski, Lucia Alfaro, Ashley Russo, Hannah Shellenbarger, Erica Oram, and Lauren McMahon.

She doesn't mind Porter's blunt assessment six years ago.

"That was the little kick I needed to get into it and start working hard," she said. "It kind of jump-started something inside of me. I've never been so determined to prove someone wrong. I started training harder, I started training faster and taking summer training very seriously.

I got obsessed with it and didn't stop."

Alfaro had run in sixth grade but didn't do any training before coming out for cross country at the start of high school. She said Porter's account of her first practice was a slight exaggeration.

"I could run a half mile," she said.

"I think I had to do a two-mile run, and I could only run a mile. I walked

the rest of the way. His words were the little kick I needed to get into it and start working hard."

Alfaro kept working hard and her times kept dropping. She went from the slowest runner on the team to one of the top five and then became the team leader and a state qualifier as a senior. She eventually earned an athletic and academic scholarship to Siena Heights where she is a junior majoring in chemistry. She wants to attend graduate school and become a pharmacist.

"Just being given the opportunity to even run in college is awesome," she said.

Alfaro already was running year-round with her training work in high school. Now her season runs year-round with cross country followed by indoor track and then outdoor track. Success came quickly in college. Alfaro ran the half marathon as a freshman. She ran fast enough to qualify for nationals but was directed the wrong way and ended up running a 25k (15.5 miles) instead of 13.1 miles, so she didn't get the qualification. As a sophomore she took second place in the half marathon, running 1: 28.48, and easily beating the automatic qualifying mark for nationals by one minute, 12 seconds.

As a captain, she says she "has a lot more responsibility. Now it's even more important how hard I work. I want to be a role model and to keep everyone working together as a team. That was my goal."

Why does Alfaro run? "I run because no one can tell me what I can and cannot do," she said. "I'm the only one who can say if I can't do something, whether that be how far or how hard I run that day.

"My body and mind can tell me to stop a million times, but it's my heart that never gives up, and that's what makes this sport so special. Because once you fall in love with it, you can't stop." ♦

Nate Adams '17 has been a movie buff since childhood. Now, the Siena Heights University junior theater major is The Movie Buff.

He currently has a budding career as an Internet movie reviewer. After starting a movie review blog in high school, his web site host noticed that traffic to his site was “abnormal.”

“I was averaging 75 visitors a day,” said Adams of his web site, themoviebuff.com, which is hosted by Weebly. “(Weebly) took notice of that. And I wasn’t going out of my way to tell people, either.”

Adams is now paid by Weebly to review movies of all kinds, which gives him special viewing privileges.

“I get to see movies early all the time,” said Adams of the pre-screenings he attends sometimes weeks before films hit the theaters. “That would be enough for me. It’s kind of cool to see a movie weeks early before the general public can see it. Then, I can tell people about it.”

He said his reviews have improved since his Clinton High School days.

“The first thing I like to do in all of my reviews is I like to give at least a brief summary of the film,” Adams said of his review process. “That way, no matter what I say, they can decide for themselves if it’s something they want to go see. It’s just my opinion. I’m not stopping anybody from going to see a movie that they want to go see.”

And Adams definitely has an opinion.

“The only thing about this job, is even though I get to see the good movies, the award films, I also have to see movies like ‘Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2,’ ” he said. “An ideal movie is one that makes us contemplate, but a movie that also can make us appreciate what is being done in front of us. ... It’s a movie you want to tell your friends about or a movie you want to go see again.”

He said he often has people who disagree with his reviews. Take the movie “Southpaw,” released last summer.

“Everybody that I knew loved it. I didn’t,” Adams said. “And I had to face all the backlash from it. I’m not writing for everybody. If I like a movie, I like it. And if I don’t, I don’t.”

Being a college theater student and an acting hopeful also gives him a different perspective from other reviewers.

“One thing I don’t like to criticize is the acting,” Adams said. “I never like to single out anybody’s performance. It’s not fair. I know how I would feel if someone said, ‘Nate Adams gave a terrible performance.’ In my reviews, you will never see me down on somebody unless I know they are better than what they are doing.”

So what is his favorite movie?

“Forrest Gump,” said Adams, who patterns his style after famous reviewer Richard Roeper. “Just because there’s so

SHU Student Nate Adams Is Making a Name for Himself as a Movie Reviewer

By Doug Goodnough





much there in symbolism and imagery that you could talk about for hours.”

In case movie reviewing and acting careers don’t pan out, Adams is also a budding stand-up comedian (left). He uses his quick wit and background growing up on a dairy farm in rural Lenawee County as fodder for his material.

“I wear normal clothes. I don’t wear jeans or overalls, the typical stereotype that farmers face every day,” Adams said. “I use it as a punchline of a joke, because nobody expects it. ... In my jokes I make it a point to make fun of myself at some point. It’s OK for the audience to laugh then, because they know that it’s you doing it.”

He often uses the “poor college student” shtick in his comedy, as well as material from his other part-time job, which, not surprisingly, is working at a movie theater.

“I’m just going to see what happens,” Adams said of his career options. “Anything in the entertainment industry I would be happy doing. I’ve done drama, I’ve done comedy. I would really like to be in a horror film and get mutilated or die. I’m weird like that.” ♦



Personal Trainer

Three-Time Rice Award Winner Carl Kaster Helps Biology Students Take ‘The Next Step’

Carl Kaster’s father wanted him to be physician.

“When I was a college undergraduate, if people asked me what I wanted to do when I graduated, I always said ‘medicine,’” he said. “If I said medicine, I didn’t have to talk about it any more, because they all knew what that meant. You wanted to be a physician.”

In fact, after working as an extern at an internal medicine private practice for a couple of years, he was ready to enter medical school at the University of Louisville.

“I met with the medical school dean,” Kaster said. “When we got through with that interview, he gave me the best advice I had had at that point. He said, ‘Stop thinking about doing what your family wants you to do. Do what you want to do. ... You don’t want to be a physician, you want to be somebody who is training physicians.’ So here I am.”

So here he is at Siena Heights University, beginning his 34th year on campus as a professor of biology. Last spring, Kaster was honored with the Eileen K. Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching for the third time, which is more than any other SHU faculty member. And

although many things have changed since he arrived on campus in the summer of 1982, some constants remain.

“Back in the 80s, parents saw us as some place their children are safe, and that hasn’t changed,” Kaster said. “Our students were also very provincial. I had students who had never been south of Findlay, Ohio. I had students who had never seen a cow, other than pictures. ... It’s a little bit better today. But in terms of being provincial, our students are still very provincial. Students who have been accepted into graduate and professional schools in big cities are really afraid to go until we talk to them a little while.”

"I care that the students learn . . . They are paying a lot of money, so I want to make sure they're getting their money's worth."

And he remains impressed with the quality of his students, as well as with his faculty colleagues.

"When I came here, I had students that I would put up against the best students anywhere," Kaster said. "We still have those students today. They can go anywhere, do anything.

"I was impressed as a new faculty member with the faculty that were already here, in what they had done with regards to scholarship and teaching and innovation. I'm still impressed today with what some of our faculty are doing."

Kaster, who is also the chair of the Computer, Mathematics and Sciences Division, has helped build the sciences into one of the most respected programs

on campus. In fact, SHU biology graduates have a 95 percent acceptance rate into medical, chiropractic, podiatric, veterinary graduate school.

"We have had a tremendously good run," said Kaster, who also credited fellow biology professors Jun Tsuji, Tom Wassmer and Milson Luce as well as chemistry faculty Tony Scioly, Steve Wathen and Julius Nagy. "The fact that they are all good teachers really does help get students into professional and graduate schools."

Kaster also credited Sister Helen Duggan and Sister Sharon Weber—the people who helped bring him to Siena—for building a strong science foundation at Siena Heights.

Kaster said his teaching philosophy is simple.

"I care that the students learn," he said. "They are paying a lot of money, so I want to make sure they're getting their money's worth. And nobody's ever complained that they didn't."

He recognizes that Siena Heights is not the last educational step for most of his students.

"If you are a biology major, you will go on to professional schools or graduate schools, and they have to be ready for those," Kaster said. "That's part of my philosophy, is that they're ready for the next step."

And Kaster's experience in the medical field helps him relate to those students as well.

"I've actually used that (medical experience) in almost all the courses that I teach here," he said. "I think that's one of the reasons I can communicate really well with our students who have goals in human medicine."

So, what does the Rice Award mean to him?

"It means that I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing," Kaster said. "I think it does show some flexibility on my part, that I can change with the students. I think that's important. I was so surprised. This was completely unexpected." ♦



2015 SHU Award Winners from Honors Convocation:

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award—

Seniors Jessie Arnold and Matthew Robinet received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award at the annual Honors Convocation in April 2015. This award is the highest honor given to undergraduate students at SHU. Arnold of Antwerp, Ohio, earned a bachelor's degree in English. She was a captain of the NAIA nationally ranked women's basketball team, as well as a student ambassador for admissions and a tutor in SHU's Writing Center. Robinet of Chesterfield, Mich., received a bachelor's degree in both Business Administration and Communications. He served as Student Government president for two years and was involved in numerous service projects. He also was a NAIA Scholar-Athlete in both track and soccer.

Thomas A. Emmett Award

(Outstanding Junior Scholar-Athlete)—
Andrea Rumler, Joseph Williams

Team Academic Award—Women's Golf

Division Outstanding Student Awards:

Business and Management—Meiko McDaniel, Jennifer Sylvester, Tayler Thelen

Computing, Mathematics, and the Sciences—
Shelby Shaffer, Elizabeth Davis

Education—Undergraduate Education:
Kyle Johnson

Humanities—Jessie Arnold, Carie Sanford

Nursing—Jori Bitter, Hillary Keiser

Social and Behavioral Sciences—Trenton Bragg, Mackenzie Tomasik

Visual and Performing Arts—Elise Hardcastle, Justin Lujan

St. Catherine of Alexandria Medal—
Allison Caswell

Graduate College Outstanding Student Awards:

Counseling—Kathryn Williams

Leadership—Danielle Patrick

Teacher Education—Brent McCall

Faculty and Staff Awards:

Staff Excellence Award—Marcia Mikuski, Sandy Morley

Jack Bologna Award for Innovative Teaching—
Mary Antonaros

Sister Jean Cecile Hunt Outstanding Advisor Award—Cindy Sutherland

Professors Emeriti—Samuel Abraham, C. Patrick Palmer

Rising Stars

"Rising Stars" profiles Siena Heights University alumni who have graduated within the past 10 years and who excel in their careers, occupations or community service accomplishments. To be considered for the "Rising Stars" piece in an upcoming issue of *Reflections* Magazine, please fill out the online form at www.sienaheights.edu/risingstars. Those who are selected to be included in an upcoming issue of the magazine will be contacted by the Reflections staff.

Rob Hemmig



Graduation year: 2007, 2009/MA.

Current title/position: Corporate Partnerships Executive, Michigan International Speedway, Brooklyn, Mich.

What Rob is doing: He works at Michigan International Speedway alongside many other SHU alums. His role is to find ways for companies to utilize MIS's assets when it comes to entertainment, marketing and activation. He started as a ticketing intern in 2007 and has worked his way up to his current position.

My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was: "I think my favorite memory outside of baseball would have to be seeing the students I recruited while coaching complete their degrees from Siena Heights University."

My favorite person at Siena Heights was: "There are so many to pick from, but Joni LeMay and Melissa Growden were always there to make sure that things were going in the right direction."

My ultimate goal in life is: "Be successful and happy."

My best piece of advice for SHU students is: "Create your own experiences at SHU, don't just follow the group. Each person will and should have a different experience while in college. Get involved in activities that you normally wouldn't do. You never know, you may find a new passion."

Kajal Kapoor



Graduation year: 2009.

Current title/position: Associate Recruiting Lead at Google, London, England.

What Kajal is doing: After completing her undergraduate degree she worked for a year and then moved to London to get her master's. She currently manages a team of 12 coordinators in the recruiting department at Google (think slides, and nap-pods). Her team's main focuses are decreasing time to hire and increasing candidate experience. She started at Google 2 1/2 years ago as a contractor and was converted into a full-time employee after a year. She was then promoted within role six months later and inherited her team another six months after that. She also has a (famous) "20% project" as the head of the Disability Network in London: Changing the conversation from Disability to Ability.

My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was: "Am I allowed to say any story that started at Mandy's? I'm kidding. Every single moment with the International Club. I met my best friends there!"

My favorite person at Siena Heights was: "Melissa Growden. She's a rock star! And she helped me get an internship working with the Pistons (free tickets, court-side every week of the internship)!"

My ultimate goal in life is: "To travel. Last year, I left the country every single month. I haven't been everywhere – but it's on my list!"

My best piece of advice for SHU students is: "Life is about balance. Having a 4.0 GPA won't help you if you can't hold a conversation. Meet people and take risks. I only regret the things I don't do!"

Matt Larson



Graduation year: 2009.

Current title/position: Director of Group Sales, Tulsa Drillers Baseball Club and Tulsa Roughnecks Soccer, Tulsa, Okla.

What Matt is doing: His current position is director of Group Sales with the Tulsa Drillers Baseball Club (AA Affiliate of the LA Dodgers) and Tulsa Roughnecks FC (USL soccer team). He is responsible for overseeing the team's 1,000-plus annual groups and organizing youth sports initiatives. He started in January 2010 as a Group Sales assistant and has since been Assistant Group Sales manager and Group Sales manager prior to his current title.

My favorite moment/story while a student at Siena Heights was: "Winning the (SHU) name the mascot contest. Randomly entered for a class and ended up winning. The prize helped me pay for a trip to Chicago to see the 2009 NHL Winter Classic at Wrigley Field. I couldn't be at the mascot unveiling due to having an interview for an internship."

My favorite person at Siena Heights was: Rob Hemmig.

My ultimate goal in life is: "Work for a professional sports team, and in retirement, play lots of golf!"

My best piece of advice for SHU students is: "Get involved early on! Employers look for experience beyond classes and like to see that you can balance classes with other activities. Plus it goes a long way to building your resume!" ♦

Rewriting the Menu

Jackie Corser Helps Open Farm-to-Table Restaurant in Monroe

After owning two Big Boy restaurants in the Monroe, Mich., area for many years, Jackie Corser '14 and her husband, Fred, decided it was time to "rewrite the menu" of their business.

"We knew two years before (making a change) that we were going to change the concept into a more personalized ownership without a franchise," Corser said.

Before that change happened, however, she went back to school. She completed her associate's degree from the culinary program at Monroe County Community College, then went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Siena Heights University's MCCC campus. The Corsers sold one Big Boy franchise, remodeled the other, and partnered with George and Maria Darany to open the Public House Food & Drink in downtown Monroe. The revamped Big Boy is now a farm-to-table restaurant and bar that serves locally grown and sourced food.

"The concept was well-accepted by our community, as well as the outside community," said Corser, who serves as chef as well as co-owner of Public House. "It was something in our hearts that we wanted to do, and so we were going to try it. ... Because of all our experiences, we have the ability and all the restaurant experience to do something cool and creative. That's how Public House was conceived."

Borrowing from the British concept of a "public house" where people gather and socialize, the restaurant that opened in July 2014 features made-from-scratch dishes that have "a Southern flair" with an American comfort food focus, Corser said.

The farm-to-table approach reflects Corser's focus on the environment, which she said is very important to her.

"I'm really in touch with the earth," she said. "I think it's really important we keep it safe. We try to buy local and try to keep everything in the community as much as we can."

However, melding that philosophy with a business concept presents some potential concerns.

"One of the challenges you are up against is finding the right purveyors to supply food that you know is local," Corser said. "We have to know that it gets passed on as we eat it."

Corser said she used her culinary education to help shape the menu. However, she said the operation of the restaurant is a "team effort." She said each co-owner can step in and help in almost any area of the restaurant when needed. That cross-training approach is ingrained in their employees as well.



"If you know how to do everything, you can jump in," she said.

Community involvement is another ingredient to the restaurant's success. Being able to seat up to 100 or so people, Public House hosts many community events and groups, including the popular Thursday night jazz series.

"We try to draw to community," Corser said. "That's been real good for us. ... Being involved in groups helps generate business."

She said education is the key to being successful in business. In fact, Corser credited the business and leadership courses she took at Siena Heights as helping her become a better manager.

"When you're here, you have to know what to do," Corser said. "It has to have a system. Although I had that, (my Siena education) just strengthened what I had."

Corser said she is also using her education to teach at the Toledo Restaurant Training Center to help future culinarians achieve their goals.

What's her advice to others looking to get into the restaurant industry?

"Do a lot of research," Corser said. "Get knowledge from an educational institute that is going to help you be successful. ... Talk to other people and ask them what the roadblocks were, what were the positives? Work hard. You're going to work 80 hours a week. You are going to cry, and you're going to be happy, and you're going to struggle until you get the right people who understand you and what you are looking to achieve. And have a unique concept."

What is her favorite item on the menu?

"(I like) the salmon. The chicken avocado sandwich. The eggplant. I like all of our stuff because we wrote the menu," she said, laughing. ♦

By Doug Goodnough

Something's Brewing

Husband-and-Wife SHU Graduates Grow Cotton Brewing Co. Into Successful Business Venture

Brett and Krista (First) Cotton have something brewing in Adrian. The married double Siena Heights University graduates started brewing beer more than five years ago as a hobby. Using their own money – and their Siena Heights degrees—they decided to make it into a business in 2012. And business is booming. Using fairs and craft beer festivals as both a proof-of-concept and a built-in test market, Cotton Brewing Co. is on its way to becoming a full-time venture for the husband-and-wife team.

"We were just trying to be able to sell the beer," said Krista of the original reason they started the business. "We never intended it to take off and have the demand that we did. It just keeps rolling."

Brett said he originally got the idea of brewing beer while working in a corporate setting in Washington, D.C.

"Beer brewing was really big out there," Brett said. "A bunch of friends would go hit up these different breweries every week."

When his job in D.C. ended, he returned to Michigan and decided to buy a home brewing kit.

"About a year later, I was giving away so much beer, I called liquor control and asked, 'What is it going to take to get a few bucks for my beer?' " he said.

The answer was filling out a piece of paper. But then a whole lot of paperwork followed. That's where the education part comes in. Krista, who has a bachelor's degree in accounting (2007) and a master's degree in organizational leadership (2009),



handled all the paperwork. Brett, who has a business degree (2006) and a master's degree in organizational leadership (2008), takes care of most of the logistics and marketing side of the business.

"It's all done on our own, which helps a lot," Krista said. "We were able to do it all on our own without anybody else's input because we had the education."

"I think having master's degrees kind of gave us the upper hand, especially when talking to city council," Brett said. "I think they knew we were pretty serious. If we invested this amount of time in our education to take a business venture on, I think it gave us a little credibility."

Currently, the Cottons are on the road almost every weekend at festivals and fairs around the region. At the Lenawee County Fair in July, they staged a special one-day event featuring their beer, and had an unexpected response.

"The demand was enormous," Brett said of the 5,000 or so people who showed up for the event. "It was a lot more than we expected. A lot more. We weren't prepared."

Brett said they normally go through 10-15 kegs of beer during a normal festival weekend.

Cotton Brewing is currently located in a small room of a large factory on the industrial side of the city of Adrian. In fact, the company logo on the door is the only evidence of a microbrewery's existence. That won't be for long.

The Cottons are in the process of opening a new location in Adrian that will include a tap room. The room will include an ornate, hand-crafted, 24-seat bar made out of hickory. Sixteen taps will flow — all with different kinds of Cotton-brewed beer.

"I want it to be a fun place for people to come and hang out and see the actual beer-making process," said Brett of the 12,000 square foot facility, which is expected to open by the end of 2015.

The couple said the goal is to operate a full brewery there that would include a bottling, canning and distributing operation. That will allow them to leave their part-time jobs and concentrate on their business full-time.

"Eventually, we'd like to go state-wide, but that's probably 5 to 7 years away," Krista said.



Krista, who is considered the "brewer," said they have created more than 120 types of beer. The fan favorite: maple bacon porter.

"The maple syrup gives you that front sweetness and the bacon dries it out," Brett said of their best-seller. "It turned out to be a huge hit."

They said brewing is a very scientific process. And that process is time-consuming, and the equipment expensive.

"Time is probably our biggest challenge," Krista said.

Brett said there are more than 200 microbreweries in Michigan, and despite being in competition with one another, they collaborate quite a bit.

"We've learned that working together, we can be more successful," he said.

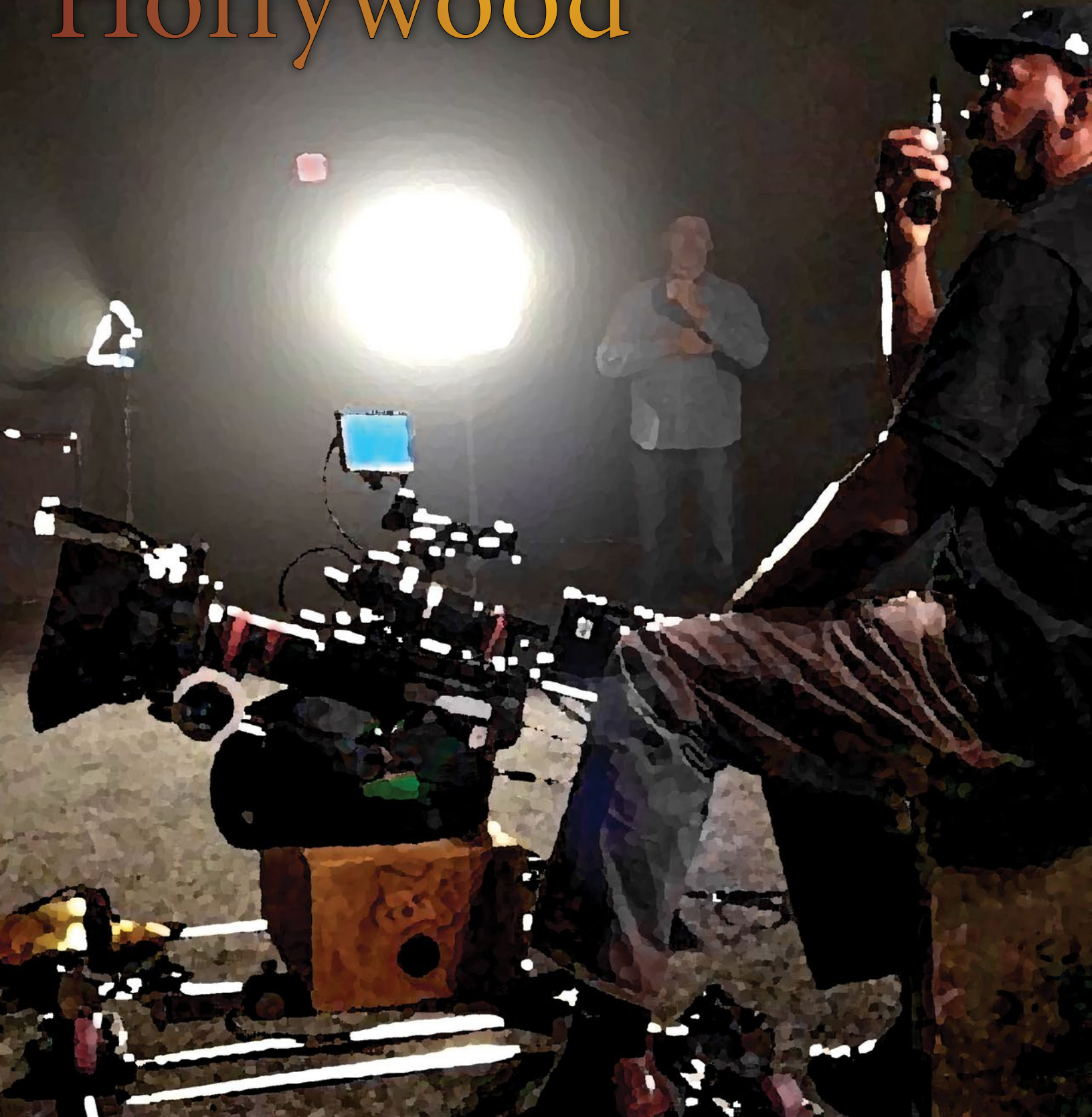
Although neither Brett nor Krista had a background in brewing or bartending, they both credited their Siena Heights education for their business success.

"Don't pigeon-hole yourself into something that gravitates to your degree," Krista said. "We did business and accounting and ended up brewing. If you (have) a business degree, it can take you anywhere. You can do anything."

"I think Siena gave us a pretty good 360-degree view on how to start a business," Brett said. "Just start. You're going to try to think everything all the way through to the end. And once you start, it's going to be totally different. Just take an idea and start with it." ♦



Mr. Smith Goes to Hollywood



By Doug Goodnough

Siena Heights Graduate Enjoys Distinguished Career as Director of Photography



Darryl E. Smith casts a long shadow standing 6 feet, 8 inches tall. However, that shadow pales in comparison to the one he has cast as a director of photography in Hollywood.

The 1985 Siena Heights graduate has an impressive list of credits and clients, including MTV, Disney, Coca-Cola, CBS, the NFL Network and HBO. The owner of his own production company, Darryl E. Smith Productions, for the past 14 years, he said his path to success was a winding one. And his starting point was Siena Heights.

Originally recruited to play basketball at Siena by former coach Ben Braun, Smith said Siena Heights was the only school that showed interest in him as a student—not just as a basketball player.

“(Coach Braun) basically recruited me on my interests instead of what they needed,” said Smith, who planned to study biology at Siena Heights. “He was guaranteeing my mom that I would graduate. He said, ‘Basketball is important, but so is education.’ I played basketball to get an education.”



And Smith was well on his way to a biology degree when a teammate asked him to participate in a campus theater production his junior year. He called that experience a “pivotal point” in his life.

Acting was OK, but it was behind the scenes that intrigued Smith. He began working with former theater professor Doug Miller on set building and lighting. It was then that the literal “light bulb” went on for Smith.

“We lit a couple of small lab theater plays, then Tennessee Williams’ play ‘The Glass Menagerie,’” Smith recalled. “(Miller) allowed me to implement an idea. There was a symbol on top of the statue, and he allowed me to put a light up through it. At a certain time in the play when someone went to reach for (the statue), I pulled the lever and the light streamed out. And the whole crowd went ‘Oooohhhh.’ The hair stood up on my arms, and that was it. After that, I was over there (at the theater department) the whole time.”

In fact, he spent many nights rewiring old VCR machines and other video equipment for the department, and then decided to spend his summers volunteering to work for video departments at places like the University of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Education.

By then, he wasn't just interested in cinematography, he wanted a degree to show for it. Problem: Siena Heights didn't have a concentration in that area at the time.

No problem: Working with faculty, he created his own degree path.

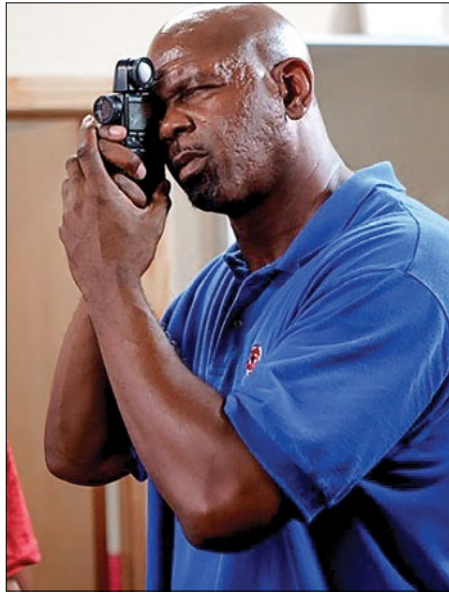
"With Ben Braun's help, I called a meeting with the dean of students, the dean of the college and Sister (Eileen) Rice," Smith said. "And everybody came. I presented my proposal, and said 'This is what I wanted to do.' ... They allowed me to pretty much re-write my own curriculum."

Graduating with a degree in theater/speech communications with a concentration in television and film, Smith got a job as a production assistant with WGTE, the public television station in Toledo, Ohio. Within two months, he was filming programs for the station, and "everything took off from there."

Soon, he was filming and lighting commercials as a freelancer, and then went to work as the creative director for Koontz Advertising, which had him working with companies such as Owens Corning, Libby Glass and Owens-Illinois. He eventually moved back to his native Detroit, taking on clients such as Ford and Kmart, and had built a solid career path there.

But then the Hollywood bug bit.

He was constantly watching television shows and trying to figure how scenes and the actors were lit.



"The best thing you can do is anticipate. Don't keep asking, 'Can I have a job?' It's those anticipation moments that mean you are paying attention. And if you anticipate, then you have a shot at getting in."

"I was drawing lighting plots and figuring out where (the lighting) they were on the TV show," Smith said.

After watching an episode of "Growing Pains" and stumped on how one of the main characters were lit, he decided to write the show's director of photography to ask how it was done.

"He wrote me back," Smith said. "He actually called, and we spoke. He asked me if I ever had been to California. I said, 'No.' He said, 'If you ever come to visit, look me up.'"

Smith took him up on the offer, and flew out to Los Angeles and visited that director.

"I stayed on the set the whole week," Smith said.



During that time, they were shooting a scene with a car and were having trouble with reflection. The director asked Smith for his opinion.

"You couldn't work in Detroit if you couldn't light a car," Smith said. "And I could light a car. ... I made a suggestion, and he took me in front of all these Hollywood producers and said, 'We're going to do that.' They did exactly what I said. He came back and said 'I should move out (to Hollywood).'"

Smith didn't realize that his director friend also happened to be the president of the camera union. Three years later, Smith revisited his friend, earned his union membership, and he was in Hollywood to stay.

Nearly 25 years later, Smith is a fixture in the industry. He was the director of photography for the popular "MTV Cribs" show that ran from 2000-2011.

"It's one of the milestones of my career," Smith said of the show. "I took it over from the pilot, and we took the pilot and escalated it."

His other claim to fame is lighting beautiful women such as Elizabeth Taylor, Cher, Halle Berry and Jennifer Lopez.



“It kind of what I do,” he said. “I’m very blessed to do it, and Siena kind of helped me start it.”

When the lights go out, there’s still plenty of work to be done, Smith said.

“As director of photography, it’s not a photographer,” Smith said of his job title. “It’s a cinematographer that controls not only the lighting of the program and the angles, but it controls the cameras, all the lenses, crew and electricity.”

He said the days are long—very long. “Most of my days are a minimum 12 hours,” Smith said. “I’ve been blessed to work on a lot of shows and behind-the-scenes specials.”

He’s worked on outtakes for the Grammys, handled audio for the ESPY Awards and shoots player featurettes for the NFL Network. He recently completed working on two pilot shows, and recently work on “The Voice” television show.

His advice for others wanting to follow his career path?

“It’s highly competitive, so be willing to work for free,” Smith said. “If you really want to work with somebody, be willing to make their life easier. ...

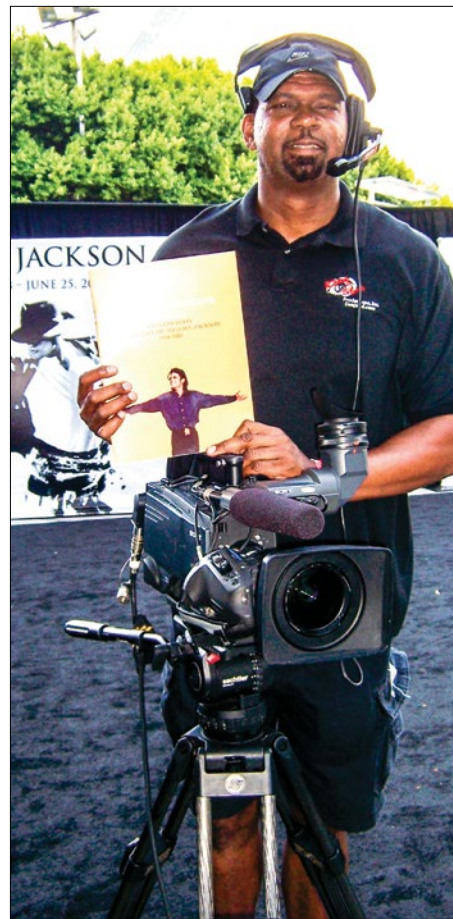
The best thing you can do is anticipate. Don’t keep asking, ‘Can I have a job?’ Anticipate. Clean a lens. Set up a tripod. It’s those anticipation moments that means you are paying attention. And if you can anticipate, then you have a shot at getting in.”

And he said there are plenty of opportunities in his career field.

“Don’t walk away from a movie at the end of it. Read all those credits,” Smith

said. “All those credits are nothing but jobs. For every one person who’s up there (on the screen), there’s three people who didn’t get a credit.

“It’s been a great career.” ♦



Self-Starter

SHU Student Gilius Blinstrubas '17 Follows in his Family's Entrepreneurial Footsteps

By Doug Goodnough

His grandfather started one. His father started one. So, it's not that unusual that Gilius (pronounced GIL-us) Blinstrubas decided to start his own business. What is unusual is that Blinstrubas started not one—but two—businesses before beginning his junior year at Siena Heights University. “It takes a special person to do it,” Blinstrubas said. “I really enjoy business. I spend a lot of time reading business books, articles and talking to people about business. It doesn't feel like work.” The grandson of Lithuanian immigrants who came to the U.S. during World War II, Blinstrubas' grandfather started his

own tool-and-die business, and his father a law firm. Their entrepreneurial example inspired him to start his first business in 2013 as a freshman at SHU.

“I love stickers, and I know other people do, too,” Blinstrubas said of the origins of his start-up business concept. “You put logos on cups, balls and T-shirts. Stickers would be cool on a light switch.”

Using that idea, he started Switch Art, a company that designs custom graphics to cover light switch plates. Most of his business is web-based, and Blinstrubas said he has already learned a lot from that experience. The native of Downers Grove, Ill., and business major said he has recently “pivoted”





from his initial strategy of selling his product directly to consumers and now has taken on more of a business-to-business approach.

“We are reaching out to companies to design for them,” he said. “We then sell it for them, or they will resell.”

His newest business venture—launched in August—is a subscription box company on the social media channel Instagram

geared towards fellow entrepreneurs and business people.

“It’s like the Dollar Shave Club,” said Blinstrubas of his Businessboxclub.com startup. “Once a month, we ship out a package to your door full of goodies. The items are geared towards business, like business books, roll-up keyboards and portable chargers. ... There’s not a subscription box that gears toward entrepreneurs, and there’s a large market for it.”

Currently he has more than 2,500 Instagram followers, and between 50-100 subscribers to his box club. He said the goal is 10,000 followers and at least 1,000 subscribers.

“Social media is a huge place for businesses to put out their stuff,” Blinstrubas said.

He said making money is not the reason why he started his businesses.

“Why I started these businesses now in college is to learn from them,” Blinstrubas said. “That’s the main goal, is to do what I love and learn from the mistakes so I don’t make them in the future.”

In fact, he said his education is his main focus. As proof, he recently had to make the difficult decision to leave the SHU men’s volleyball team, where he was an all-conference performer.

“It’s time-consuming, and I don’t want to spread myself out too thin,” Blinstrubas said of his decision. “School is first and foremost for me. I want to make sure I do well in my academics. And other things need my attention.”

One of those “other things” is the new Entrepreneur Club he and several other students recently started on the SHU campus.

“I created the idea,” he said. “There was no business club, so I started one.”

He reached out to classmates Brody Davidson, John Holowaty, Parker Ross, Jake Haley and Nick Campbell, who serve as the club’s “board members.”

“The main goal is for it to be a comfortable place where kids can come in and network with each other and talk about business and learn and grow together,” Blinstrubas said. “Our slogan is ‘Grow With Us.’”

He said the club plans to bring in CEOs and other business leaders as guest speakers as well as make field trips to local businesses.

“We’re opening it up to everyone. We want to build the club around the community,” he added.

Blinstrubas said he hopes to start his own technology business after he graduates.

“Being your own boss is awesome,” he said. “Do it because you have a passion for it. Working on something you are passionate about and growing something that you believe in is just an awesome reward.” ♦

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James and Denise Cote
Country Market
County National Bank
Kevin '77 and Julia Courtney
Cynthia Courtright '09
Brian and Janice '70 Cousino
Neil Cousino
Thomas Cox '01
Alma Cox
Thomas and Dawn Cramer
Charles Craves
Marita Cremeans '93
Laura Cridle '14
Lora Crombez
Robert and Charlotte Crosby
Aubrey Crosby
Croswell Opera House
Zachary Crothers
Paul and Bonnie Crumback
Michael and Sharon Crupi
Charles and Connie '88 Cullip
Paul and Louann Cummings
Robert and Charlotte Cundiff
Elizabeth Cundiff
Melania Cunn '05 '14
Jacqueline Curtin '71
Robert '94 and Sandra Curtis
Lois Curtis '64
Jozef and Geraldine Czarnik
Robert Czer '77
Sandra Dandrow '04
James and Carol '93 Daniels
Michael and Michelle Daniels
Sally Daniels '70
Ashley Daniels
Danley's Country House
Amy Darr
Tracy Darr
Joseph and Paula '69 Dart
Margaret Dautherty '11
April Davidson '13
Jerry and Gale Davis
Marianne Davis
Gabrielle Davis '85
Gabrielle Davis '13
Norman Davis '94
Thomas and Melanie Davis
Jeffery Dawley
Michael Dawson
Bonnie Dawson '06
John and Kimberly Day
Beth De Vries
Walter and Renee Dean
Jean Dean
Patricia Deane
Delores Dearborn
Michael and Kathleen Dearborn
Diane Dechert
Keith Dechert
Sharon Dechert
Shelly Dechert
Jeffrey Deck '93
Christie Decker
Michael and Judith Deery
Catherine DeGalan '55
Kimberly Dehler
DeHondt Electric Inc.
Kenneth DeHondt
Lawrence DeHondt
Michael DeHondt
Marie Deis '76
Daniel and Linda Dejewski
Nicholas DeKam '01
Cheryl Delahoussaye '72
Gary and Deborah '90 Delamielleure
Bryce Delamielleure '15
Joshua DeLosSantos '01
Marlene DeLuca
Makan Dembele
DeMor Hills Golf Course
Junior and Harriet Denslow
Ronald and Dianna Denslow
Renee Derdaele '89
Victoria DeShaw '99
Designs Salon & Spa
Randall and Bonita '67 DeTrinis
Detroit Red Wings
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Romeo Diccio '90
Jennifer Dickey
Mario and Geraldine '66 DiLisi
Paul and Maxine '70 '72 Diller
William Dini
Maxim '76 and Gayle '70 Diver
Arlieathier Dixon '94
Jasmin Dmytrow '01
Scott Doman
Douglas and Wanda Doney
Kathleen Donlon '70
Patricia Donohue '71

Mary Jane Dopp '96
John and Marianne '51 Doran
Heather Doran '09
Randy and Brenda '74 '96 Doremus
Bradley and Lori Doriot
Richard Dover '07
Stephen and Kimberly Dowding
Lori Dowell
Melissa Dowell
Jennifer Downham '98
Sheri Doyle
Britt Doyle '11
Willard and Michelle Dozier
Jonathan Dozier '15
Norman Driggers '99
Douglas '76 and Carol Drinker
Christopher and Renee Dubach
Louis and Teresa Dubicki
Meghan Dubois '15
Robert and Cecelia Dubreuil
Joseph and Joyce '58 Duchon
Denise Dufek '97
Rachel Duff-Anderson '00
Gabriel Dunbar
Gloria Duncanson
Corey and Margaret Dunham
Judith Dunlap '68
William and Kay Dunlop
Jesse Dunn '89
Judith Dupre '70
Michael and Suzanne '76 Duquet
Heather Duval-Foote '10
Krista Eash '11
Patricia Eason
Larrie Eaton
Nancy Eaton '04
Mary Joan Ebbitt '71
Anne Eddy '03
Wayne Edmonds '09
Julie Edwards '07 '09
Jim and M. Dianna '68 Edwards
William Edwards '94
Martin Ehinger '81
Karen Einger
Sharmin Eichenberg '14
Mary Elarton
David and Norma Elick
Dorothy Elliott '45
Larry and Melissa '96 Elliott
Deborah Elliott '88 '01
Michael Ellis
Paul Embry '86
Julie Emmons '10
Brian Embody
Andrew Engardio
Jeffrey Engelhardt
Melinda England
Daniel '93 and Donna '00 English
Linda Erickson
Kenneth and Caroline Ericson
Jennifer Ermiger
Audrey Essen
Shirley Eubanks '84
Andrea Evans
Evans Street Station
Parrish Evers
Philip Eversden
Sam and Dianne Ewing
David Face '04 '10
Thomas and Jean '71 Fagan
Peter and Diana '97 Fallot
Jessica Farler '05
Wayne and Patricia Farmer
Rochelle Fausneacht
James Feeney
James Felan '11
Daniel Fenderson '14
John and Margo Fenstermaker
Bonnie Fenton '94
Johanna Ferguson-Hippensteel
Rhonda Ferrell
Darren Fether '14
Margaria Fichtner
David and Annabel Field
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First Federal Bank
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Brianna Fitzgerald
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Ana Flaquer '57
John and Martha '92 Flasch
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Agnes Fleetham
David Fleetham
Ruth Flint '98
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Brian Flores
Ashley Flores
Amanda Fluker
Flying Otter Winery
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Dale Fonner
Bonnie Fonner
Eugene Fox
Michael '09 and Leticia '10 Fox
Martin and Mary Foxworthy
David and Pamela '82 Fraley
Craig and Renae Frank
Vaughn and Kathleen Franklin
Chris and Pamela Franzoni
David and Sally '82 Frautschi
Brianna Frazier '09
D.W. Frederick
Rochelle Freeman '12

Jeremy '95 '07 and Martha '99 Frew
Ronald Fritz
Robert and Diane Fritz
Virginia Froehle
Cynthia Fromme '87
Paul Frownfelder '83
Joyce Fruge '57
Cynthia Fry
Phyllis Fugate
Jeff Fulk
John and Jacqueline Fultz
Lauren Fultz
Fustini's
Deborah Gaiser '09
Annette Gambell '60
Theresa Garcia
Judith Gardiner '67
Roland Gardner '11 '13
Daren and Lorena Garmenn
Carl and Shirma Garrett
Joyce Garrow '05 '10
Paul and Helen Garson
Trudi Garth '94 '96
Alice Gates
Barbara Gault '82
Theodore Gebauer
Lisa Gee-Cram '11
Thomas and Marion '52 Geiger
Betty Genaw '52
Mike and Christina '78 Geno
Thomas and Rosemary '72 Genyk
Elfriede Georgal '88
Virginia Gerhart '50
Sydney Gerig
Sharon Gerlach '59
Jack '94 and Terrie Giannosa
Margaret Gibbons
Nancy Gibson
Adam Gibson '86
Perry and Cynthia '84 Giese
Richard and Lillis Gilmartin
Giovanni a'Balatti
Bonnie Gironx '94
Jeffrey Gisser '81
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Richard Goebel
Jonathon and Karlene '74 Goetz
John and Sherri Goff
Walter and Joyce '53 Gohl
Anthony and Irene '61 Gonzalez
Maria Gonzalez '76
Tony '82 and Carolyn '79 '90 Gonzalez
Cassie Goodband
Daniel and Constance Goodrich
Leo and Maybelle '54 Goran
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Yolanda Gordon '07 '11
Kathleen Gorsky '71 '75
Jennifer Gorton
Raymond and Dorothy '66 Govaere
Governor Croswell Tea Room & Restaurant
Jennifer Grabarczyk
Lauren Graham
Sherry Graham
Micah Graham '12
Amy Graham
Richard Grane
Rorie Grant
Kevin Grasley '95
Kerry Graves
Enos and Joyce Graves
Karin Gray '81 '96
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Great Lakes Holders
Scarlett Green '86 '93
Michael Greer
Jane Grein
Paula Grieder '06 '14
Rosalee Griewahn '90
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Martin and Mary Griffin
Judith Grimme
Paulette Grimme
Brian Grimme
Charles and Betty Gross
Michael and Laurie Gross
Marilyn Grove '03
Melissa Growden '90
Lavern Gruba '55
William Grubbs '81
Tonya Grupp '15
Patricia Grybel
Gina Gudowski '11 '15
Tammy Gunnin
HGR Block
Marjorie Haas '89
Timothy and Mary Habel
Habitat for Humanity
Katherine Haemelnick '13
Mary Haggart
Timothy and Rebecca '91 '10 Hague
Robert and Catherine Hahn
Savannah Haig '14
Jennifer Hale '11
Jonathan and Deborah Hale
Beth Hale
Michael and Danita Hall
John Hall
Bicen '00 and Jacqueline '13 Hallahan
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Detra Halliwill
Nicole Halliwill
Rhonda Hamby '91
Whitney and Linda Hames
Mary Hamilton '76
Barbara Hamilton
Barbara Hamlin
Kenneth and Alice '65 Hamlin
Martina Hammond
Mark and Patricia Hammons
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Ted '91 '99 and Stephanie Hanosh
Linda '70 Hansen
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Christine Hardy '14
Gary Hardy
Judith Hargrave
George and Susan '94 Harmon
Kevin '88 and Jacklyn '87 Harrah
Matthew and Vicki '90 Harrell
Paulette Harris
Lisa Harris '97
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Amy Harsh '13
Adam Harsh
Adam Hartle '06
Thomas Hartley '77
Philip and Linda '93 Hartley
Betty Hartmann '69
Lee Harville
Mark and Wanda Hassertt
Jose and Gloria Hassertt
Katie Hatch '07
Denise Hatter
Deanna Hawkins '03
Marvin Hawkins '12 '15
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Alisia Hayes
John and Louise '82 Haynes
Ghislaire Haynes '73
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Angela Heath
Nancy Hebb
Catherine Hebel
Edward and Mildred Hebel
Valene Hebel
Greg and Jennifer Heft
Kristin Heinz '00
Thomas Helms II '13
Jacob Helse '15
Sr. Grace Henneberry, OP '65
Erika Henry '07
Cedric '76 '78 and Benita Henry
Nancy Herdell-Powers '95
Luis and Lindsay Hernandez
Brian and Pamela Hieber
Marjorie Higdon '69
Jonathan Higgins
Grace Hill '92
Gaylord and Marilyn '82 Hill
Kathy '14 '09 Hill
Marianna Hill '13
Bob and Diana '05 Hill
Teena Hill
John and Sharon Hiller
Richard Hiltz
Lawrence and Peggy Hlavka
Joseph Hoag
Harrison and Marjorie '58 Hobbs
Rodney Hochstetler '73
Gregory and Alexa Hodgins
Jim '79 and Betty Hoeffel
Genevieve Hofbauer
Susan Hoffman '08
James and Mary '83 Hoffmann
Jerry and Deborah '98 '02 Holmes
William and Lori Holmes
Geraldine Holshoe
Cory and Deborah Holt
Justin Holubik '12
Craig '76 and Sherry Holubik
Herbert Holzeter
George and Nancy '81 Hontz
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Kay Hopek
Douglas and Heather Hopek
Dennis Hopkinson
M. Theresa Horgan
Mary Horgan
Shirley Horn '68
Marilyn Horne '09
Daniel and Harriet '56 Horne
Eloise Hosken '99
David and Carrie Hoskins
Michael and Margaret '53 Houlihan
Wanda House '90 '98
Thomas '94 '96 and Pamela '96 '06
Howard
Christian and Gina Howard
Kristin Howard '11 '12
Elizabeth Howarth '57
Kevin and Pamela Hoyt
Frank '90 '98 and Tracy '92 Hribar
Doris Hubbard '94 '07
Paul and Debra Hudson
Christopher '07 and Ashley '05 '08
Hudson
Sonya Huff '11
Philip and Ann '82 Hughes
Casper and Ruth '50 Hughes
Mary Jo Huismann
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Matthew Humphries	Julie Koehn	Bertha Lopez '69	Roger and Carole '80 Merillat	Gary and Kathryn Olsen	Dennis '77 and Mary Reeder
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Judith Hunt '88	Todd and Rhonda Kohler	Laura Lorenz '76	Robert '85 and Patti Meszaros	Fred '78 and Mary O'Quinn	Patricia Reid '00
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Alvin and Melenda Hunter	Kohler's Propane Company	Scott Lowin	Gaye Mianek	Richard and Tammy Otis	Joshua Reilly '15
Mark and Alicia Huntoon	Michael Kolacz	Stacey Lown '98	Hildegarde Michel	Andrea Ouellette	Frank and Therese '84 Reilly
Christopher '98 and Michele Hurley	Robert Komoroski '86'	Christina Lowry '12	Michigan International Speedway	Khalilah Outlaw	Barry '79 and Candace Reinink
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James Ide	Adam and Lori '02 '03 Kosarue	Milson Luce	Marcia Mikuski	Bonnie Owens	Genevieve Remillard
Virginia and Virginia Ingle	Ross and Mary '75 Kosinski	Tammy Lutze '98	Ramunas Milkus '11	Caryn Owens	Kathy Renfrow '77
Kevin and Rachel '99 '05 Iott	Sandra Kotulis '67	James and Linda Lyons	Millenium Packaging Inc.	Keegan Pabst	Vicki Rennie
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Christine Irwin	Kenneth and Barbara Kranning	Joseph and Caroline Macek	Max and Delcy Miller	Michael Page	Darlene Reuter
Thomas and JoAnne Iwanicki	Joyce Kransz '07	Megan Macek	Lawrence '84 and Sandra Miller	John and Debra Pajot	Landry Reynolds
John '79 and Hollace Jabkiewicz	Dolores Kreger	Cheyenne MacKenzie	Michael and Susan Miller	Joan Palmer '51	Elmer and Janet Rheinecker
Virginia Jacko	Marilyn Kremer '07	Kristie Mackie '13	John and Tamara '92 Miller	Misty Palmer	Kimberly '07 '10 Rice
John Jackson '99	Richard '82 and Lydia Kret	Robert and Kathleen '65 Mackstaller	David and Helena Miller	Paul and Katherine Palmiter	Kirk Richards
Laurence Jacobs	Michelle Krieger '00	John MacNaughton	Nancy Miller '12	Robert and Karen Paluch	Robert Richards '15
Douglas and Linda Jacobs	Patricia Kroh '53	Kevin and Marianne '86 Magee	Joyce Miller	Susan Palushaj '10	Brad and Cindy Riemersma
Susan Jacobson '85	LeAnn Krokker '90	David and Deborah Mailoux	Charles and Bonnie '80 Milliken	Thomas and Dixie Palya	Peter Ries
Stephen and Maria '83 '82 Jadwisiak	Mara Kroll	Ahmad Makki	Rhea Mills '72	Christine Panczyk '74 '73	Michael and Robin Rietsma
Benson James '89	Pamela Krosch	Raymond and Barbara Malburg	Eric Mion '00	Dorothy Pantle '68	Liesel '06 and James '12 Riggs
Susan James	Anthony Krueger '10	Clifford Malburg	Michael '81 and Dewi Miron	Ralph Papenfuss '89	Jere Righter '95
Allen and Deborah Janice	Stephen Kruger '94	Dianne Malburg	Carrie Mitchell	Evin and Barbara Papuga	Deric and Pamela Righter
Jamison Jansen	Kathy Kruger '91	Elaine Malburg	Eleanor Mitchell '78	Ronald and Suzanne Parker	Linda Rigley '08
Nancy Jenkins	Jennifer Krugman	Gladys Malburg	Brandy Mitchell '95	Penny Parker '07	Michael and Jocelyn Rinebold
Deborah Jenkins	Timothy '89 and Denise Krumholz	Anthony and Valerie Mangiapane	MJR Cinema	John and Marianne '67 Parthum	Lacey Ringman '07
Pamela Jepsen '05	Mary Kruse '78 '05	Martha Manheim	Rita Moe '67	Passion for Fashion	David '10 and Gloria Rink
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Jim Dandy Towing LLC	Michael Kuchar '92	Marathon Oil Company Foundation	Elizabeth Molino '10	Gasper Patricio '93	Bonnie Ritsma '14
Denis and Carol Jodis	Deanna Kuebeck	Maria's Sunnyside Cafe Inc.	Jennifer Molnar '04	Margaret Patterson '00	Robert and Carillon '69 Ritz
Karl and Pamela Johnavitz	John and Denise Kuenzer	Patrick and Marsha '71 Marinis	Viktoria Molotok '14	Perry and Joanne '83 Patton	Anthony Roberson '99
Rhonda Johns '86	Rosemary Kuhnt	Dragan Markovic	Brian and Joan Montague	Taylor Patton	Mary Robertson '67
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Leroy and Madryn Johnson	James and Lucille Kulonowski	Koby '14 and Donna '11 '14 Marowelli	Kimika Moore '12	Joseph and Angelina Pechota	Lorie Robinette
Karen Johnson	Douglas Kulwicki	Shelley and Eduardo Marquez	Kyle Moore	Mary Ann Pedersoli	Sheryl Robinson
Gloria Johnson	Richard '75 and Patricia Kury	Heather Marr '15	Larry and Anna Moore	Saleem and Mumtaz '92 Peeradina	Shontalette Robinson
Jennifer Johnson '86	Alice Kuschinsky '04	Jeanne Marsh '71	Michelle Moore	Bernadette Pelland '55 '79	Laura Robinson
Natasha Johnson '07	Wendy LaBeau '99	Laura Marsh '10	Raven Moore	Duane and Linda Pelz	Richard Rockwood
Nancy Johnson	Tracey Ladd '93	Joseph '01 and Jodi '00 Marsh	Robert and Karen '84 Moore	Cheryl Pemberton '85	Rosita Rodriguez '09
John and Karen '04 '10 Johnson	Karen Laetz '87	William '78 and Jacqueline '83 Marshall	Mary Morelli '89	Penn National Gaming Foundation	Charles and Rebecca '89 Roehm
Katie Johnson '09	Alton and Marie '66 LaForest	Marshall RV Inc.	Andrina Morence '04	Debra Perchalski	Joanne Roehm
LaTonya Johnson '06	Steven Lagacy '77	Ronald and Lois Martens	Rita Moreno	Brian Perchalski	Linda Rogers
Terri Johnston '13	Stacie Lahr '10	Mary Martin	Shandleleika Moreno	Cliff and Rosamaria '76 Perez	Emerson Rogers '91
Sue Johnston	Vanessa Lake '12	Anthony '83 and Myrna Martin	Gary Morgan '07	Rick and Rosann '73 Perry	Root Family Trust
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Brook Jones '13	Robert Lambright '14	Faustino Martinez	Thomas Morrissey	Susanne Peters '97	William '99 and Monica Rose
Solomon Jones	Michael Kirk Lane '05	Peggy Martinus	James and Connie '73 '81 Morse	James and Debra '79 Peters	Thomas Rose '11
Mindy Jordan '04	Allan and Virginia Langenderfer	Velma Martinus	John Morse '08	Vincent and Etta Peters	Elizabeth Rose '13
Elaine Joseph	Jamie Langley	Diane and Scott '12 '14 Martzke	Jeanne Marie Mosley '59	Rachel and Alfred Peters	Ruby Rose
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John and Marilyn Jurgonski	Connie LaScola	Philip '90 and Ellen Marvin	William Motz	Dan Pfendtner	Constance Roth '99
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Raymond Kania '11	Jeffrey and Susan Lawrence	Ann Mason '68	Elizabeth Mpmaria '09	Dahlia Phillips	Barbara Rumler
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Mary Lou Kaplinski	Claude Leblanc '09	Philip and Kelly Masser	Ronald Mudge '96	Florence Pichler '65	Rudy and Jill Ruterbusch
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Kenneth and Shirley Keller	Thomas Leppert '92	Maryann McCarthy '08	Eric Nanni '99	Jeffrey Ponos '15	Lois Sandefur
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Deborah Kelso	Angeline Levendoski '14	Donald and Mary '83 McCue	Eric Needham '04	Nancy Potter '78	Alan '82 and Tamara '82 Sandifer
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Dawn Kevern '08	William Lipke '05	Matthew McKelvey '05	Susan Nilson '00	Sally Rae	William and Carol Schaefer
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Lynn Klima	Bonnie Logan	Teresa Meadows '11	Nancy O'Connor	Nathan Readous	Anna Schmidt
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Curtis Scholl '10
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John Schultz
Mark Schutt '14
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Eleanor Schwartz '51
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Michael and Lisa Sterling
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Alec Stevens
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Traci Stewart '02
Michael and Judith Stewart
Susan Stieber '60

Kathleen Stiefel '02
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Sandy Vanderlaan
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Thomas VanSickle '95

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William and Margaret '53 Vaughan
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Nicholas Veltema
Dan Venier '97
Thomas and Anne Venner
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Gregory and Margo Videan
Meghan Vigeant '03
Lawrence and Beth Vocke
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Joyce Wagner
Gary and Donna Wahr
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David and Diane Wallen
Jason and Rebecca '02 Waller
Yvonne Walsh '86
Anne Walsh
John Walsh
Hunter Walsh
Chris Walters
Jammie Walters
Annie Waltz
Carolyn Waltz
Kierra Waltz
Richard Waltz
Shannon Waltz
Kay Walworth '91
William and Constance Waple
Kaylene Warner '92
Ronald and Ellen Warren
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PERCENTAGE OF GIVING BY CLASS YEAR

Alumni giving plays a critical role in ensuring that Siena remains an institution of opportunity for so many. Below you'll find a list of class years followed by the percent of alumni who made a gift last fiscal year. We ask that you consider making a gift each and every year. Doing so will increase our alumni giving percentages and, more importantly, help to provide a life-changing experience for our students.

1945	14.29%
1946	3.57%
1947	7.89%
1948	4.88%
1949	11.54%
1950	12.28%
1951	17.65%
1952	11.48%
1953	6.12%
1954	12.77%
1955	1.72%
1956	10.53%
1957	15.15%
1958	8.51%
1959	9.78%
1960	6.42%
1961	9.52%
1962	6.19%
1963	12.23%
1964	10.61%
1965	11.90%
1966	15.62%
1967	7.64%
1968	13.12%
1969	11.19%
1970	15.33%
1971	10.57%
1972	8.51%
1973	11.40%
1974	9.68%
1975	7.08%
1976	5.83%
1977	9.66%
1978	5.96%
1979	4.68%
1980	2.97%
1981	8.42%
1982	6.32%
1983	6.75%
1984	4.89%
1985	4.56%
1986	2.12%
1987	4.64%
1988	3.60%
1989	4.80%
1990	3.47%
1991	4.65%
1992	3.80%
1993	4.56%
1994	3.25%
1995	2.37%
1996	2.37%
1997	2.22%
1998	3.61%
1999	2.80%
2000	2.65%
2001	2.84%
2002	2.92%
2003	2.37%
2004	2.90%
2005	2.19%
2006	3.21%
2007	2.10%
2008	2.91%
2009	2.60%
2010	3.34%
2011	1.89%
2012	3.11%
2013	2.97%
2014	4.97%
2015	

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Pamela Balazy '64
Evelyn A. Capoun
Tracy Church '93
Ursula Thompson Foley
Larry Francoeur, Sr.
Noel and Ruth Francoeur
Petrionilla Francoeur
Prim and Clare Francoeur
Andy Growden
Donald P. Klienow
Kelly Anne Parkinson '95
Dorothy C. Pennington
Sr. Mariam M. Stimson, OP '36

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Class of 1964
Deborah Carter
Maureen McLaughlin
Sr. Jeanne M. O'Laughlin, OP
Mary M. Spencer HD '12

HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Heritage Society honors those who have made planned giving commitments to Siena Heights. A planned gift is a great way to support Siena Heights and leave a lasting legacy. To learn more call (800) 693-0506 or email advancement@sienaheights.edu.

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Gregory Schira '89
Emory and Kristina Schmidt
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Frederick Smith '87
David Stevens '81
Byron Stickle '83
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Eleanor Taylor '57
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from the alumni office



Jennifer A. Hamlin Church H'13
Associate VP for Advancement &
Director of Alumni Relations
jhchurch@sienaheights.edu

"So in the deepest gratitude for years that too swiftly fly..."

As I write, the glow of Homecoming 2015 still surrounds me and my mind is filled with recollections of rain, sun, snowflakes, fun, inspiration and re-connection:

- the powerful testimony of alumni award winners Lois Hueneman Chazaud '49, Jacqueline Battalora '88, Michael Donovan '75 and Honorary Alumna Deb Carter;
- the laughter and liveliness of tailgates and tailgate trophies;
- the energy of athletes—varsity, alumni, and Hall of Famers;
- the inquiring minds of faculty, students and alumni at the Coffee Curriculum;
- the creativity of SHU musicians (Acapelicans, Choir, Band), actors (the cast of *Urinetown*), and artists (Kelly Papcun Burke '07, Brett Lawrence '95);
- and upholding it all, the Dominican foundation of faith; of competence, purpose and ethics; of respect for the dignity of all—and a Homecoming Mass presided over by Fr. Dan Lannen '05 and SHU chaplain Fr. John Grace.

It was all there at Homecoming. Go, Saints.

Actually, that same mix—learning and laughter, faith and creativity, energy and inquiry—has defined my experience of Siena Heights over the past 20 years. What a couple of decades! In that time, Siena changed from SHC to SHU. Inaugurated Rick Artman and Sister Peg Albert, OP, as the 9th and 10th presidents. Built football and baseball stadiums, a university center, campus apartments, and a small living community. Added football, lacrosse and bowling in athletics. Added sport management, nursing and engineering in academics. Established degree-completion sites in Lansing, Jackson and Dearborn. Built one of the nation's best online programs.

In the alumni area, in those same years, we expanded old traditions and established new ones: Kente, Alumni Awards, tailgating, Dinner & Theater, the 50th Reunion, Toledo Mud Hens, SW Michigan holiday gathering, Alumni Board engagement...and lots more.

Go, Saints, indeed!

Siena Heights is a special place with a rich history, remarkable alumni, and a uniquely Adrian Dominican heart and soul. If you believe in SHU as I do—not only its past and present but also its future—find a way to support this place. Because it is, and always has been, people who make the difference at this school that still believes "you can change the world."

It's been a privilege, and certainly my pleasure, to work with Siena Heights alumni since 1995. Stay in touch (I'm keeping my email address). You made me an honorary alumna so I'll be back—but more relaxed and without a clipboard—at Homecoming next year; and at the 100th anniversary in 2019. Best wishes to incoming Alumni Director Jenny Engle '12, '15/MA. And now, changing the lyrics of the Alma Mater just a bit:

"...I rise and give my thanks to you, as I say goodbye."



Scenes from Homecoming 2015:

Homecoming Weekend 2015 at Siena Heights was another event-filled celebration on the Adrian campus. From athletic events to awards ceremonies to alumni reunions, graduates from all eras came back to celebrate all things Siena! Here is just a “snapshot” of the action. For more photos of the weekend, please visit Reflections Online at www.reflections.sienaheights.edu!



Impactful Art

Siena Heights was involved with the Lenawee County Mural Project headed by SHU alum and nationally recognized muralist Martin Moreno '88 last summer. Moreno was commissioned to head the project, which included creating a mural on the side of the Fishes and Loaves building in the city of Adrian. The project began in June was finished in July. SHU student, faculty and staff volunteers painted and helped with design. The project was coordinated by SHU Arts Engagement Coordinator Joni Warner (pictured with Moreno). Moreno also donated a smaller mural to be auctioned off at the annual Siena Summer Spectacular for Scholarships on June 21. Moreno is pictured with members of the Adrian Dominican Sisters, who won the live auction for his artwork. The Spectacular raised a record \$80,000 this year for student scholarships. To view a video on the process of the mural project, visit <https://youtu.be/WIQtnRWOKfl>.



class notes

FROM THE SITES

Battle Creek

1997



Marcie Gillette '08/MA was promoted to community services director by the city of Battle Creek, Mich., in May 2015. She

has worked for the city since 1998 and previously served as neighborhood services manager. She will oversee several departments, including planning, code compliance, neighborhood services, inspections and community development.

2007



Teresa Allen was named the executive director of the Charitable Union, which provides children and families in need with

clothing, bedding and small household items at no cost. She has more than 15 years of experience working nonprofit organizations.

2011



Jennifer LaGrand is currently employed as a retention coach for Battle Creek Essential Skills Demanded by

Great Employers (EDGE), a workforce development program that helps low-income city residents build skills to get and maintain jobs to help them become financially stable.

Jackson

2013

Cassandra DeMay was recently accepted into the master's program in gerontology at the University of Southern California. She is taking the program completely online and will reside in Michigan.

Kyle Leighton was appointed the director of marketing for New York City-based North American Manufacturing Enterprises in July 2015. He has eight years of public relations experience, and was honored at the National Association of Electrical Distributors LEAD Conference in Chicago in 2013. He was named to tED Magazine's list of emerging electrical industry leaders in the U.S. He will be based at the company's headquarters in NYC.

Lansing

2014

Martha Burnett MA is employed as a project manager with the Business and Community Institute in the Lansing (Mich.) area.

Monroe

2015

Michele Schmalzel had her research published in the Undergraduate Research Journal for the Human Services. The title of her research is: "Assessing Middle School Students Need for a School Counselor." She completed this research in the Research in Psychology course taught by adjunct professor Dr. Ali Ziegler.

Online

2008



Diane Shearer was featured as part of Marco Island (Fla.) Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Marco program

in August 2015. Shearer spent almost 25 years in the health care industry as a radiologic technician and ultrasound clinical applications specialist. She was selected as GE Healthcare's "Top Talent" in 2008-09. She entered the real estate profession in 2010, and is now a certified Marco Island specialist, an accredited buyer's representative, an e-Pro and a resort and second-home property specialist.

2015

Eric Rosen is employed as a paramedic/clinical educator with the Temple Health System Transport Team. He resides in Jenkintown, Pa.

Southfield

2009

Michael Morton '11/MA was recently named the plant manager at the Tower International facility in Auburn, Ind. Morton started with the company as a weld technician, working his way up to skilled trades supervisor, controls engineer, skilled trades superintendent and engineering manager before his latest promotion. He said, "my degree has been instrumental in that progression. Not only in opening the door, but in using what I learned in my dealings with my colleagues."

2012

Al Dyer was appointed chief of the Lincoln Park (Mich.) Fire Department in June 2015. Dyer has spent more than two decades with the department, starting as an entry-level firefighter in 1994. He was promoted to fire inspector and marshal before taking over the 18-member department. He also serves as the city's director of emergency management.



LaVon McLeod was promoted in June 2015 to accessories manager for Cadillac. He will be based in New York City. He previously

was the launch manager in the Performance and EV Product and Operations Department at Cadillac's Warren (Mich.) facility. He has been with General Motors since 1985 and had various positions, including manufacturing engineer, designer, maintenance supervisor, material handling engineer and program manager.

2015

Harmoni Perri Eggert is employed as a respiratory therapist with Henry Ford Wyandotte (Mich.) Hospital. She resides in Riverview, Mich.

MAIN CAMPUS

1963

Barbara LaBerge Seebaldt and her husband celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 31, 2015.

1978



Carol Naccarato was named as the director of the Allied Health Division's medical assistant program at Glen Oaks (Mich.)

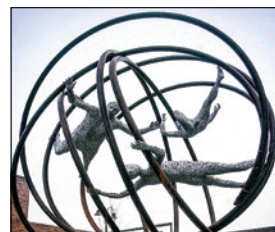
Community College. She began her new position in July 2015.

1980



Allan Rodewald sent along some pictures of his recent trip (above) to the Sahara Desert, showing off his alma mater.

1981



Ann Gildner exhibited her sculpture "Free fall" (above) at the annual Art-Prize event at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. She is also a gallery director and florist for the Coop Floral Shop and Gildner Gallery in Cheboygan, Mich.

1982

Leonardo Rivera is an internal auditor with Corporacion DRO-LANCA in El Vigia-Merida, Venezuela. He said he thanks God for being able to attend Siena Heights and wants to say hi to his former professor Sister Sharon Weber.

1983

Teresa Harvey Allison/AA is living and working in Houston, Texas, area as an administrative assistant for the Spring (Texas) Intermediate School District. She has three children and two grandchildren.

1984

Kenneth Kops retired from the U.S. Army Sept. 1 after more than 32 years of service. He started out as a private and worked his way up to colonel. He currently works for the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., as program manager for Strategic Planning. He and his wife, Young, reside in northern Virginia. He sends his best wishes to all Saints and a "great big hello to the class of 1984!"

1985



John Detoro was named a physician assistant consultant to U.S. Surgeon General Patricia Horoho in May 2015. He previously served

as deputy chief, Surgical Services Service Line at the Office of The Surgeon General in Falls Church, Va. According to a press release from The Surgeon General's office, "Detoro's accomplishments have contributed immeasurably to the success of physician assistants throughout the AMEDD and will continue to impact the care to our patients for many years to come."



Patricia Kaufman was named the new president of Baker College of Clinton Township on Sept. 1, 2015.

Kaufman previously served as president of Baker College of Jackson, and has been with the institution since 1994 in various roles, including career services coordinator and vice president of academics.

1986



Scott McClure was named the new commissioner of the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in July 2015. He became the conference's first full-time commissioner. McClure was previously athletic director at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Ill.

1990

Allan Harris was named the head men's basketball coach at Mid-Atlantic Christian College in Elizabeth City, N.C., in May 2015. He also serves as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Gates, N.C., and was an assistant coach for two seasons for MACC.

Brenda Perry was recently hired as an eighth-grade teacher at the Fourth Street Learning Center by Jackson (Mich.) Public Schools.

1996

Matthew Ostapowicz was promoted to captain of the West Service Area for the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Police Department in March 2014.

1997



Kerri Webb Morrin recently became Chief Operation Officer of the Small Business Capital Group at Paragon in Decatur, Ga. She previously had served in many banking roles before her current appointment, including as vice president of two other banks in the Atlanta (Ga.) metro area.

Scott Suchy has been the art director for City Paper of Charleston, S.C., since 2008.

1999

Keith and Wendy Ann Kirkbride Rusie announced the birth of a son, Evan Dominic, on May 30, 2015. He was 6 lbs., 10 oz., and was 20 inches long. The Rusies reside in Grand Blanc, Mich.

2001

Tera Cheek Murphy was promoted to vice president of marketing at First Federal Bank, which has 33 locations in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. She and her husband Gregory, and their son, Kenden, reside in Defiance, Ohio.

2002

Jennifer Letherer has just published a new nonfiction volume through Praeger called "Remote Virtue: A Christian Guide to

Intentional Media Viewing." She is currently an associate professor in the Department of Communication and Media at Spring Arbor University, and director for SAU Drama.

2003

Sean Burns was appointed as inside sales specialist for Haviland Products Co. in April 2015. He has more than 12 years of hospitality business management experience.

Shawney Cook-Aguirre/MA

is currently in his seventh year at Hopkinsville (Ky.) High School, teaching English and yearbook productions. He said he loves teaching, making a difference and working with other teachers/administration. He also works for Upward Bound at Hopkinsville Community College as a tutor and teaches summer English courses.

2004

Anthony Butler was recently named a campus minister at St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind.

2007

Ron Crampton was recently selected as director of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration National Training Center, which is a U.S. Department of Transportation law enforcement center with more than 20,000 students annually. He resides in Maryville, Tenn.

2008

Catrina Ossmann '08 has advanced to phase II of competition for the Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award which is sponsored by the NASCAR Foundation. The award is given to a NASCAR fan who has made a profound impact on children in the local community. She is also a member of the Communities in Schools board.

2009

Elizabeth Artz works as the director of Fraternity and Sorority Life at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y.

2010

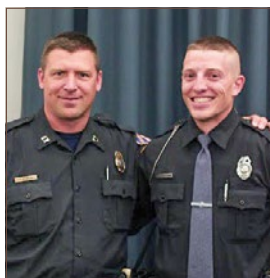
Jeremy Eddie is currently a sixth-grade social studies teacher and middle school athletic director at Greenville (S.C.) County Schools. He is also currently completing his EdS at Oakland University in educational leadership with certification as a building-level principal.

Tyler Kemper interned in the General Counsel's Office of Tata Motors in Mumbai, India, in summer 2015. Kemper is a third-year law student at Wayne St. (Mich.) University. He said his ultimate goal is to work as an in-house counsel across many areas of corporate law.

2013

Zachary Stultz is working in public relations and on the pit crew for Carter 2 Motorsports, a team that races in the ARCA Racing Series.

2014



Chris Schurr was recently sworn in by fellow SHU graduate Captain **Matt Ostapowicz '96** as a new member of the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Police Department.

2015

Matthew Hilkens MA was recently named the assistant women's basketball coach at Hillsdale (Mich.) College. He previously served as an assistant women's basketball coach and as an admissions graduate assistant at SHU.

DEATHS

Sister Cathryn Deutsch, OP '42
Sister Mary Jean Birney, OP '43
Charlotte Stifler '45
Sister Virginia Maria LaTourelle, OP '49
Sister Patricia McGrath, OP '50
Sister Elaine Lederer, OP '51
Sister Constance Kelly, OP '52
Sister Thomas James Burns, OP '53
Sister Catherine Podvin, OP '53
Sister Mary Ripplinger, OP '53
Sister Bernadette Mary Syron, OP '53
Sister Loretta Mellon, OP '54
Sister Mildred Ann Huber, OP '55
Sister Ann Marie Meagher, OP '55
Sister Helen Belsito, OP '59
Sister Delores Slosar, OP '59
Eugenia Cusick Stoll '59
Sister Patricia Walsh, OP '59
Sister Joann Weigang, OP '60
Mary Katherine Kinkema '61
Sister Mary Catherine Evans, OP '63
Antoinette Morrison '64
Sister Barb Stanek, OP '65
Sister Sharon Culhane, OP '67
Sister Ruth Arnott '70
Robert Neal Sharp '76
Debra Sprow '79
Jayne Meadows (actress), '80 Hon.
Christopher "Kit" Daniels '00
Joni Goodrow '03
Barbara Gruden '04
Taibun Nahar Roshd, '06 Hon.

NOTABLES:



Carolyn Alford '08 (Battle Creek) received the Kalamazoo YMCA Lifetime Woman of Achievement Award in May 2015. Alford, a longtime official and community leader, is "a devoted member of the

Kalamazoo community and has spent her life working toward the betterment of others through services," according to the award description. "As a mentor and advocate for so many individuals, Carolyn's dedication to those impacted by poverty, racism or any other form of social or economic marginalization has served as an example for all to follow." Alford served on the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education for 16 years, and also served four terms on the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners. She is also past recipient of NAACP Humanitarian of the Year Award (2010) and the YMCA Woman of Achievement Award (2007).



Tod Marshall '90 was named to a two-year term as Gonzaga University's Robert K. and Ann J. Powers Professor Chair of the Humanities. The Powers chair is awarded to "an outstanding teacher-

scholar in the area of history, philosophy, language or literature," according to the university. Marshall was also the 2015 recipient of the Humanities Washington Award, which each year honors two individuals or organizations whose efforts "reflect the spirit and programs of Humanities Washington." His book of poetry, "Bugle," won the Washington State Book Award. Marshall, who is in his 16th year of teaching at Gonzaga, founded and continues to curate the university's visiting writer's series. He said, "I know that much of my success if due to the blessings I received at Siena from Sister Hogan, Sister Schnapp, Sister Hall, Mary Weeber, Mark Schersten and others. I love that place; I love the people."

Save These 2016 Dates:

Dinner & Theater '16

Saturday, February 27, 2016
"The Importance of Being Earnest"
Directed by Mark DiPietro '83

Toledo Mud Hens '16

Date Coming Soon
Fifth Third Field—Toledo, OH

Homecoming '16

October 7–9, 2016
Reunion Classes "1" and "6"
Main Campus in Adrian





TRIBUTE TO Jennifer Hamlin Church

SHU Alumni Director for 20 years

Editor's Note: Longtime Director of Alumni Relations and Associate Vice President of Advancement Jennifer Hamlin Church retired in November 2015 after more than 20 years at Siena Heights University. As a special sendoff, *Reflections* asked a few of her past and present colleagues to pen some personal words of tribute.



'Classy' and 'elegant' are two words that come to mind when I think of Jennifer Hamlin Church. Her elegance comes

through in her beautiful writing, and she is well aware that well-crafted language has the power to evoke powerful emotional responses, make people feel that they belong, provide meaning and further Siena's mission. The first time I heard the 'Voices of Siena' I knew the beautifully crafted pieces were written by Jennifer. It was my pleasure to organize two book signings for her first book, *So Much to Live For, A Memoir of Love, Loss and Living On*. Jennifer understands the importance of relationship building in Alumni Relations, and developed personal connections with alums which deepened their feelings of connection to Siena. Jennifer transformed the outreach to students and alumni of Siena Heights University's off-campus sites, creating the hugely successful annual holiday event on the west side of the state. She added off-campus graduates to the Alumni Board, and turned the conversation toward creative ways of engaging off-campus students. Jennifer is a bold and adventurous traveler.

She famously opened National Geographic, saw an ad for a horse-back trip to Mongolia and signed up.

It was my pleasure to participate in three travel abroad trips: Siena, Italy 2004, Greece and Turkey, 2011, and Siena, Italy 2014. Travel was more fun with Jennifer.

Best wishes as you retire, JHC! May you write more books, travel to new and exciting places and thoroughly enjoy the next phase of your life! I know we will stay in touch.

Deborah Carter '15 Hon.
Retired Dean of the College for Professional Studies

Jennifer is simply a class act—not only a gifted writer, but a creative and accomplished woman who puts upbeat energy into all she does—and into others as well.



She is a marvelous organizer (think about the growth in alumni participation, especially in Homecoming!), an enthusiastic supporter of all things related to Siena, from plays to Shakespeare parties (in costume), a great supporter of the arts, a gracious hostess, and a warm and welcoming presence in the Alumni Office. She has blessed Siena by generously sharing her many gifts and her gracious self, and she'll be sorely missed.

Sister Pat Schnapp '12 Hon.
SHU faculty member



Siena has been blessed to have Jennifer serve as our Alumni Relations director.

Her creativity, charm, intelligence and, most importantly, her love for people have enabled her to be incredibly effective at building lasting relationships between the University and its alumni.

During my service on the Alumni Board, we worked to find ways to allow past Alumni Board members to remain engaged. Jennifer championed the role of the Sainly Supporter. As the group continues to grow in its size and support for Siena, it will serve as one of many lasting tributes to Jennifer's accomplished years of service.

Keith Rusie '99

Past President of SHU Alumni Association Board of Directors, current Sainly Supporter



It has been a privilege and honor working with Jennifer Church for the past 8 ½ years. When I joined the Alumni

Board, she was the first person who met me with open arms at my first meeting. Our friendship and my admiration for her and all she has accomplished have grown from there.

She has the gift of making everyone feel valued and special. I have never known someone who has such an ability to engage ANYONE in conversation.

It still amazes me how she can remember so many people—their names and facts about them. That has truly led her to be such an incredible Alumni Director. I think one of her greatest assets is her writing skill. She can make a standard email to the Board epic and fun to read. Her letters to alumni and articles in Reflections Magazine over the years have carried so much meaning and the true spirit of Siena. Jennifer is a magnificent planner. I am still amazed at the number of times she has taken dozens of suggestions and ideas from a Board meeting and then magically created some of the most memorable University events. One of my greatest memories of Jennifer will be the day the Board announced she'd been selected as the 2013 Honorary Alumna. She was truly touched by the sentiments shared by those who nominated her. She was so very deserving of the award, and yet so humbled by it. Jennifer is a living example of our University's mission. She has always been competent, purposeful and ethical in her activities on behalf of the Alumni of Siena Heights University. I am so sorry to lose her at Alumni Director but know she had laid an excellent foundation for those who will follow.

Mary Poore '76

Outgoing Alumni Board President



1995 was a year of many changes for me. As a new mom returning to work after maternity leave, I was a little anxious

about meeting my new boss, Jennifer Hamlin Church, who was hired to fill the new position in Communications and Alumni Relations. As we settled in to our office with no walls, I had no choice but to answer Jennifer's many QUESTIONS as she got to know Siena Heights College, and listen to her LAUGH as people stopped by the office to welcome her.

Questions & Laughter—two of Jennifer's characteristics that have not changed in the last 20 years!

Jennifer's passion for learning and ability to bring fun and laughter into our daily work changed the way I viewed my job and my experiences working with her continue to influence and guide me daily. While we only shared an office for three years, I am blessed and grateful for our friendship that has spanned two decades. Jennifer is one of those people that when you hear her distinct laugh you want to walk across the room or down the hallway to find her. Jennifer, I know I speak for many when I say "thank you for being you." Your time at Siena has truly been a gift to your colleagues, friends, and alumni. Thank you for your laughter, smiles, and inspiration along the way. Congratulations, and best wishes on your retirement!

Lesley Weidner

Central Michigan Regional Director
SHU College for Professional Studies



Jennifer was my second real-job 'boss' after graduating from college. I won't be writing any tributes for my first! However,

Jennifer's leadership helped shape the professional I am today.

She models a great blend of intellect, humor, optimism, and kindness in all of her work.

Siena Heights University is a better place because of her contributions to creating community among its graduates.

Steve Ott

Former SHU Communication Specialist (1998-2001) and Off-Campus Marketing Director (2001-06)

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Make a difference, leave a *legacy*.

“I’ve spent most of my adult life at Siena Heights. I love Siena, and I’ve tried to give a little here and there. I thought it would be nice to leave an amount to the university in my parents’ names. This school has given so much to so many, and obviously to me. I believe in Siena Heights. I thought it would be a good way to give back. I just wish I could do more.”

—SHU Athletic Director and Hall of Fame Basketball Coach Fred Smith who created the Clifford and Jeannette Smith Endowed Scholarship

To learn how you can leave a lasting legacy that will impact the lives of others, call (800) 693-0506 or email jbrooket@sienaheights.edu.